

United States Military Academy
(West Point)

HABS No. NY-5708

On the western side of the Hudson River in Orange
County, between the towns of Cornwall to the north
and Highland Falls to the south
West Point
Orange County
New York

HABS
NY
30 COPY
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

LANDS
NO.
36-108PC
1-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
(WEST POINT)

HABS No. NY-5708

Location:

On the western side of the Hudson River in Orange County, New York, between the towns of Cornwall to the north and Highland Falls to the south.

Present Owner:

U.S. Army, Department of Defense.

Present Occupant
And Use:

United States Military Academy.

Significance:

The United States Military Academy at West Point was established by an Act of Congress on March 16, 1802. Prior to that Act, West Point served as an important defensive fortification since the time of the Revolutionary War. A National Historic Landmark district since 1960, the United States Military Academy possesses great historical and architectural importance. The oldest U.S. military post in continuous use, West Point trained many of this country's most prominent military figures, as well as many of the civil engineers who designed and built the networks of railroad, canal and port facilities which were essential to the exploitation of America's resources during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Individually, many of the buildings at West Point possess significance as having been designed over a period of time by a number of America's most prominent architects. As a whole, the overall design of West Point reflects the successful blending of collegiate and martial architectural styles, all of which is in harmony with the dramatic natural environment of this part of the Hudson River Valley.

WEST POINT

An Overview of the History and Development of the
United States Military Academy



Robie S. Lange
Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
1984

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	ii
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.....	iv
INTRODUCTION.....	x
HISTORIC LAND USE AND ACQUISITION.....	1
The Growth of West Point.....	3
ACADEMIC AREA.....	6
West Point in Infancy.....	7
The Delafield Influence.....	13
Post Civil War.....	17
Architectural Experimentation.....	20
The 1903 Architectural Competition.....	25
Continued Expansion.....	32
Conclusion.....	37
CLOSE-IN HISTORIC AREAS.....	39
Cemetery.....	39
Early Enlisted Men's Area.....	44
Early Transportation Area.....	48
Buffalo Soldiers Field.....	51
South End Officers' Quarters.....	54
Lower Washington Road.....	56
Post Services Area.....	58
Lusk Area Officers' Quarters.....	66
Merritt Road Non-Commissioned Officers' Family Quarters.....	68
Bailey Loop Non-Commissioned Officers' Family Quarters.....	68
Lee Gate Area Officers' Family Quarters.....	69
Fort Putnam.....	70
OUTLYING AREAS.....	72
Constitution Island.....	72
Round Pond.....	76
Stewart Field.....	78
Cragston Dairy Farm.....	79
Camp Buckner.....	81
Prisoner of War Camp/Camp Natural Bridge.....	82
Bull Pond.....	85
Lake Frederick.....	85
Queensboro Furnace.....	86
Leone Tract.....	86
Lady Cliff.....	87
CONCLUSION.....	90
FOOTNOTES.....	92
BIBLIOGRAPHIC ESSAY.....	98

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

During the period of time in which this report was prepared, numerous individuals and offices provided assistance which contributed to its completion.

The United States Military Academy Facilities Engineering Office, in particular the Energy and Environmental Office and the Real Estate Office, provided the necessary records pertaining to the dimensions, materials, and date of construction or acquisition of existing buildings. This "hard data" was necessary to begin the historic structures inventory, which became a valuable reference tool throughout this project.

The great majority of research was performed at the USMA Library, in the Special Collections Branch, under the direction of Robert Schnare, and the USMA Archives Branch, under the direction of Dr. Edward Cass. The specific focus of these collections, and the enthusiastic assistance given by their staffs, Marie Capps in particular, makes the USMA Library the single most important repository for records pertaining to all facets of West Point's history. Without the support and encouragement of the staff of these two branches, this research would have been far less fruitful and certainly less enjoyable.

In addition to USMA personnel, important contributions were made by several individuals working for the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the National Park Service. Libby Baylies Burns and Katherin Grandine rapidly assembled the structures inventory of the entire Academy during the waning weeks of the summer of 1981. The other contractors on the West Point Study included Bethanie Grashof (architect), and Travis McDonald (architectural historian).

During various parts of the fall, winter, and spring of 1981/82, these colleagues offered theories, criticism, and assistance which contributed greatly to this report. The entire West Point study was developed and completed under the direction of Sally Kress Tompkins, of HABS/HAER, who served as Project Director of the West Point Historic Structures Survey. Important comments and suggestions were received from HABS architectural historians, S. Allen Chambers and Alison K. Hoagland. Editorial assistance was provided by Druscilla J. Null. Finally, appreciation must go to Francis Ward, Connie Booth and Myra Jackson for their clerical support.

List of Illustrations

- Cover Old Cadet Barracks and new Chapel, as seen from sallyport of Pershing Barracks, ca. 1930
- Title Page Rear of old Library, as seen from old Headquarters Building, ca. 1880
1. Area map of United States Military Academy, 1978.
 2. Area map of United States Military Academy, ca. 1830.
 3. Illustration showing the Plain and Camptown, ca. 1830.
 4. Map of the Plain, 1863.
 5. Area map of West Point, 1883.
 6. Aerial view of West Point, 1948.
 7. Location map showing Academic Area.
 8. Fort Clinton, ca. 1886.
 9. Execution Hollow, ca. 1900.
 10. Illustration of Academic Area, showing early buildings, ca. 1828.
 11. Superintendent Sylvanus Thayer, 1817-1833.
 12. Superintendent's Quarters, ca. 1870.
 13. Officers housing located south of Superintendent's Quarters, ca. 1880.
 14. Gridley's Tavern, ca. 1870.
 15. Kosciusko's Monument, ca. 1864.
 16. The old West Point Hotel, ca. 1861.
 17. Cadet summer camp on the Plain, ca. 1877.
 18. Cadets with guests on the Plain, 1890.
 19. Engineering training on the Plain, ca. 1881.
 20. The old Cadet Hospital, ca. 1870.
 21. A drawing of the old Academy, ca. 1830.
 22. The old Academic Building, ca. 1870.

23. Drawing class in the old Academic Building, ca. 1880.
24. Superintendent Richard Delafield, 1838-1845, 1856-1861, 1861.
25. Ordnance Compound, ca. 1870.
26. A captured "Armstrong" gun in the Ordnance Compound, ca. 1870.
27. An illustration of the old Library, ca. 1841.
28. An interior view of the old Library, ca. 1925.
29. Proposed Cadet Barracks designed by Isaiah Rogers, 1840.
30. Proposed Cadet Barracks designed by F. Diaper, 1840.
31. The Academic Building and the Cadet Barracks, ca. 1861.
32. Interior of Cadet Barracks room, ca. 1877.
33. An illustration of the southern end of the Plain, showing the Library, the Chapel, the Academic Building, and the Barracks, ca. 1855.
34. The Mess Hall, ca. 1865.
35. Interior, Mess Hall, ca. 1890.
36. Interior, Mess Hall Bakery, ca. 1900.
37. The Commandant's office in the Area, ca. 1913.
38. A cadet fire detail, ca. 1860.
39. The old Riding Hall, as seen from the South Dock, ca. 1866.
40. An illustration of the Academic Area, ca. 1860.
41. Steam Heating Plant and Commandant's office in the Area, ca. 1870.
42. Sedgwick Monument, ca. 1938.
43. The old Headquarters Building, ca. 1878.
44. Cadet Quartermaster Department, ca. 1885.
45. Interior, Cadet Quartermaster Department sales counter, ca. 1900.
46. Interior, Cadet Quartermaster Department tailor shop, ca. 1890.
47. Quarters 109 along Professors Row, ca. 1875.
48. Schoolhouse for officers' children, ca. 1870.
49. Cadet Hospital, ca. 1920.

50. Interior, Cadet Hospital ward room, ca. 1890.
51. Interior, Cadet Hospital operating room, ca. 1890.
52. The Area and the new Academic Building designed by Richard Morris Hunt, ca. 1902.
53. The Academic Area, seen from Fort Putnam, ca. 1880.
54. The demolition of the old Academic Building 1891.
55. The Gymnasium and Fencing Academy designed by Richard Morris Hunt, ca. 1900.
56. The original statue atop the Battle Monument, 1894.
57. The Battle Monument, 1951.
58. An aerial view of the Academic Area at the beginning of the work done by Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson, ca. 1907.
59. Interior, the new Riding Hall, ca. 1914.
60. The "New West Point," as seen from the eastern shore of the Hudson River, ca. 1911.
61. The new Headquarters Building, ca. 1935.
62. The Cadet Chapel as seen from the Academic Building sallyport, ca. 1930.
63. The Mess Hall, North Barracks, Chapel, and Observatory, seen from Trophy Point, ca. 1935.
64. North Barracks, ca. 1938.
65. Cadet Guardhouse, ca. 1930.
66. New Cadet Hospital under construction, 1921.
67. New Cadet Hospital, ca. 1930.
68. Cadet Mess Hall, ca. 1938.
69. Aerial view of West Point, looking north, 1933.
70. Aerial view of West Point, looking south, 1933.
71. Scott Barracks, ca. 1938.
72. Location map showing Cemetery.
73. Reconstruction of Cadet Chapel in Cemetery, 1910.
74. Original Groundskeeper's cottage, ca. 1875.

75. Cadet vegetable garden behind Cemetery, ca. 1875.
76. Cadet Monument, ca. 1950.
77. Butterfield Monument, ca. 1950.
78. Dade Monument, 1957.
79. Original Custer Statue, ca. 1880.
80. Custer Monument, ca. 1950.
81. Viele Mausoleum, ca. 1903.
82. Location map showing Early Enlisted Men's Area.
83. Typical 1860s housing for married enlisted men, ca. 1910.
84. Old Soldiers' Hospital, ca. 1910.
85. Hospital Steward's Quarters, ca. 1912.
86. Row of 1890s housing for married enlisted men, ca. 1900.
87. Enlisted men's barracks, ca. 1925.
88. Location map showing Early Transportation Area.
89. Illustration of West Point as seen from Garrison's Landing, ca. 1865.
90. South Dock area, ca. 1870.
91. New plebes disembarking from Garrison Ferry, ca. 1925.
92. View of the old train station, with Academy in background, ca. 1920.
93. Old and new train stations, 1926.
94. New plebes arrive by train, 1943.
95. President Roosevelt at West Point Station, ca. 1902.
96. Location map showing Buffalo Soldiers Field.
97. Cavalry Stable, ca. 1908.
98. Branch Exchange Building, ca. 1909.
99. Richard Morris Hunt's South Gatehouse, ca. 1902.
100. Horse auction at Buffalo Soldiers Field, 1947.
101. Location map showing South End Officers' Quarters Area.

102. Old Officers' Quarters #4, #6, and #8, ca. 1900.
103. Old Officers' Quarters on site now occupied by Central Apartments, ca. 1900.
104. Old South Gatehouse, ca. 1880.
105. Typical 1890s Officers' Quarters, ca. 1900.
106. Location map showing Lower Washington Road Area.
107. Catholic Chapel, ca. 1938.
108. Typical 1860s civilian housing, ca. 1890.
109. Location map showing Post Services Area.
110. Old Cadet Restaurant, ca. 1900.
111. Bandmaster's Quarters, ca. 1900.
112. Old Main Guard House, ca. 1900.
113. Post Services Area as seen from the Cemetery, ca. 1880.
114. The "Alexander Hamilton" passing North Dock, ca. 1900.
115. North Dock and the Sea-Coast Battery, ca. 1860.
116. Sea-Coast Battery, ca. 1880.
117. Gas Works, ca. 1890.
118. Early Post Office and Quarters, ca. 1910.
119. Quartermaster Stable #1, ca. 1900.
120. Utilitarian structures in the Post Services Area, looking east, ca. 1900.
121. Utilitarian structures in the Post Services Area, looking west, ca. 1890.
122. Old Band Barracks, ca. 1880.
123. Old Soldiers Chapel, ca. 1900.
124. Old Artillery and Cavalry Barracks, ca. 1870.
125. The 1850s Soldiers' Hospital, ca. 1903.
126. Post Meat Market, ca. 1900.
127. Early view of the old Pontoon Shed and the Main Guard House, ca. 1880.
128. Target practice on the North Athletic Field, ca. 1918.

129. Old Engineers Barracks, ca. 1890.
130. Old Cadet Laundry Building, ca. 1890.
131. Location map showing Lusk Area Officer's Quarters.
132. Lusk Area, 1933.
133. Observatory Building, ca. 1890.
134. Location map showing Merritt Road Non-Commissioned Officers' Family Quarters Area, Bailey Loop Non-Commissioned Officers' Family Quarters Area, Lee Gate Officers' Family Quarters Area, and Fort Putnum.
135. Casements of Fort Putnum prior to the 1910 reconstruction, ca. 1880.
136. Location map of Outlying Areas.
137. Warner House on Constitution Island, ca. 1870.
138. Interior, Warner House, ca. 1908.
139. Cadets at Stewart Field, 1942.
140. Cadets examining plane at Stewart Field, 1942.
141. Cadet tank training in Popolopen area, 1944.
142. Cadet field training in Popolopen area, 1944.
143. Cadets and guests relaxing on beach at Camp Buckner, ca. 1945.
144. Lady Cliff Academy, ca. 1908.

INTRODUCTION

The following is a study of the development of the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point, New York. This study was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the National Park Service as part of a larger project undertaken for the Academy.

In the fall of 1981 an inventory of over 1100 structures was undertaken at the USMA. Information regarding date of erection, location, appearance, and use of each building was recorded. During the winter and spring of 1982, research was undertaken to assist in determining the architectural and historical values of each building. The purpose of this research was to establish architectural and historical values which would provide a context in which to rank the contributing value of each building to the USMA National Historic Landmark District. This overview is a product of the literature search undertaken to assess these values.

During the early part of the research, groupings of buildings, or zones, with shared historic functions were identified within the Academy grounds. In addition, several zones of shared historic function exist in the outlying areas at West Point. Each zone was ranked into categories I to IV, with zone I having the greatest relationship to the historic teaching mission at West Point. These zones were used to assist in the categorization of individual buildings, by judging them in the context of the zone in which they exist. This overview discusses the development of each zone by considering historicity, historic placement, architectural style, and visual appearance.

Each time an extant building is discussed for the first time in this report it is listed with its building number (as assigned in the Building Information Schedule) in parenthesis. All category I, and select category II, buildings have received detailed HABS documentation as another part of the West Point Project. When one of these buildings is mentioned in this text, the HABS number is provided (i.e., NY-5708-7 for the Cadet Chapel).

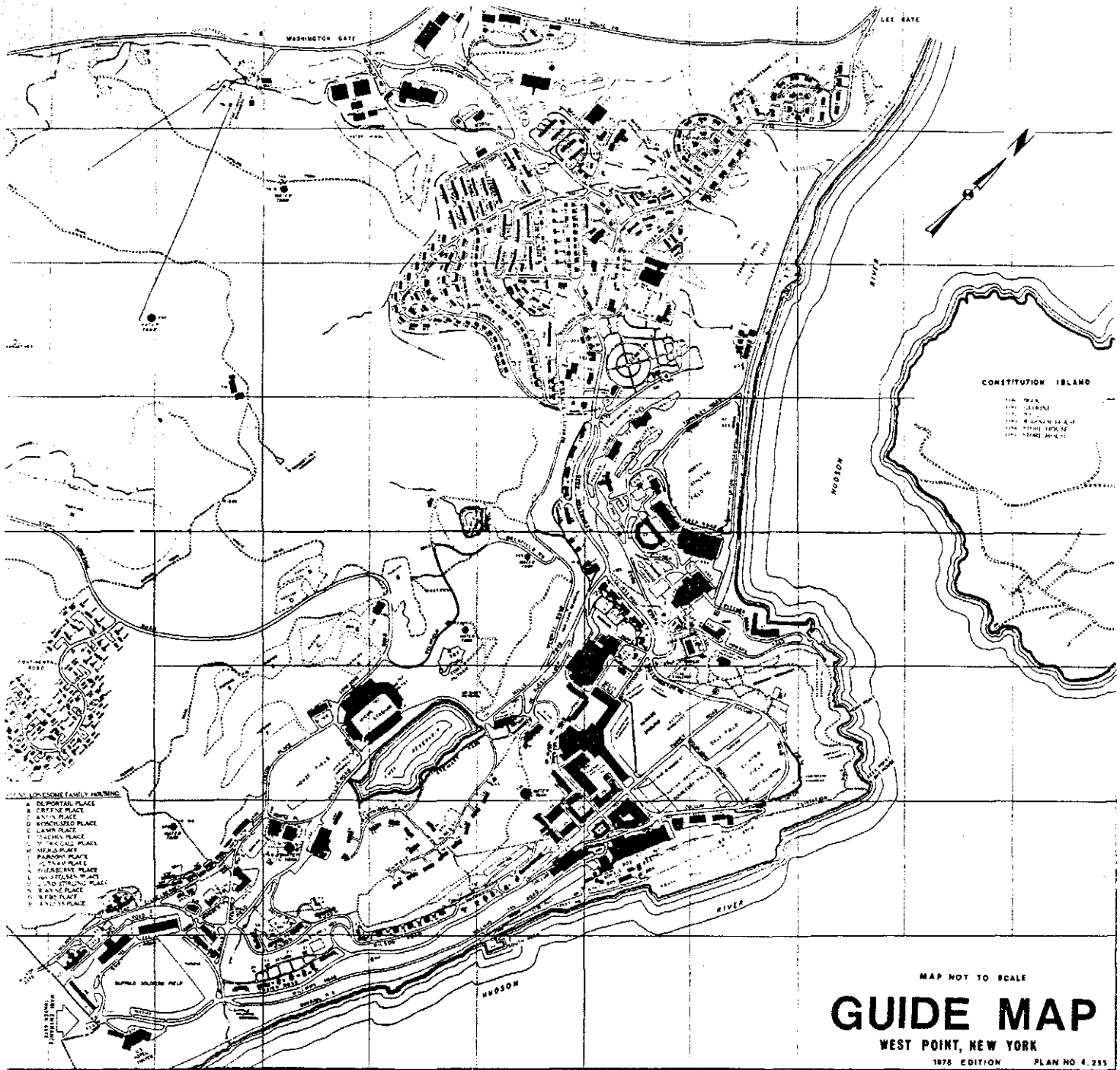
HISTORIC LAND USE AND ACQUISITION

Before reviewing each of the historic areas at the Academy, it is helpful to review the historic land use of West Point and the surrounding areas. In addition, the major land acquisitions will be reviewed.

The United States Military Academy consists of nearly 16,000 acres, most of which were acquired during the 1930s and 40s. Dispersed among these acres are over 1,100 structures. Extremely irregular in topography, West Point is situated along the western side of the Hudson River in lower Orange County, New York (illustration #1). Beginning at the flats along the river, the various hills and mountains rise sharply, reaching a height of 1,400 feet. The contiguous military reservation shares borders with the towns of Highland Falls, Fort Montgomery, Woodbury, and Cornwell. The non-contiguous areas of Stewart Army Subpost and Constitution Island are located, respectively, in New Windsor to the northwest and across from West Point along the eastern shore of the Hudson River .

Though encompassing much land today, the original area of the military reservation was far more modest. Drawing from the writings of local historian Dr. Sidney Forman, a picture of the historic land use around the Academy becomes clear.

During the Revolutionary War, the area surrounding West Point was considered a "no-man's land" between the contending forces and was known for its harboring of loyalists. Even after the war the Hudson Highlands remained largely unsettled. In an 1819 letter to Secretary of War John C. Calhoun, West Point Superintendent Sylvanus Thayer suggested the unruliness of the area when he reported the loss of arms and clothing from government stores due to "the gangs of thieves which



1. The United States Military Academy.

1978

USMA Planning Office

infest the mountains about this place..."¹ The existence of iron mines and a surviving iron furnace indicate that the mineral rich Highlands was utilized as far back as the mid-18th century.

An 1850s description of the Highlands portrayed its inhabitants living in "log shanties, pasturing a cow, and occasionally bartering some wood in the village for whisky, salt, fish, and tea."² There was little in the way of farming, due largely to topographic restraints. Rather, the isolated and independent "woodsmen" cut cord wood and hoop poles (thin pliant saplings used to encircle and hold together the barrels and casks so important for storage or shipping). These hoop poles became a significant part of the hill people's economy and were referred to as "mountain wheat." The children of these woodsmen contributed to the general welfare by picking wild nuts and berries.³

Inevitably the hill people began to disappear from the area. Forman suggests that their passing was part of a process whereby regional demographic changes and technological advances altered their pattern of isolation and independence. Such factors included: the substitution of coal for cordwood as the primary source of heating; the increase in population of the area due to migration from congested New York City to the south; and the economic viability of local villages to provide employment in various mercantile pursuits, due in part to the expanding needs of West Point.

The Growth of West Point

Through a 1790 purchase from Stephen Moore, the U.S. Government acquired the original 1,770 acres of land for West Point. Even prior to this transaction, the U.S. Government played a role on this site. Only one month after the battles of Lexington and Concord in 1775, Congress passed an act providing for a military post on the Hudson Highlands. By 1778 it was clear that the combination of West Point and Constitution Island (then known as Martelaer's Rock) would serve as an ideal defense against enemy ships having to navigate around the "Point". In addition to a series of forts and redoubts, a "Great Chain" and boom were set between West Point and Constitution Island. The chain, the second such device used in the area, was never challenged by British ships, either due to its impregnability, or the hope of surreptitiously capturing West Point with the help of Benedict Arnold.

While the war proved the value of West Point as a defensive fortification, it also highlighted the importance of a body of trained military men. A March 16, 1802, Act of Congress established a United States Military Academy at West Point to provide a trained body of officers capable of taking charge in the event of war. Not until after the War of 1812 did the scope of the teaching mission begin to reflect the academic goals which today make up the West Point experience. In 1824 the opportunity arose to add about 300 acres to the south of the original tract, and the Gridley tract was purchased (illustration #2, 3, 4). As West Point continued to expand in the mid-19th century, the need for an adequate water supply proved crucial (illustration #5). Toward this end, in 1879 the government purchased Round Pond, which was located to the west of the military reservation. The Kinsley Tract, which ran from the southern boundary of the Gridley Tract to



2. USMA, West Point, showing the original Academy buildings around the Plain and Camptown to the northwest.

ca. 1830

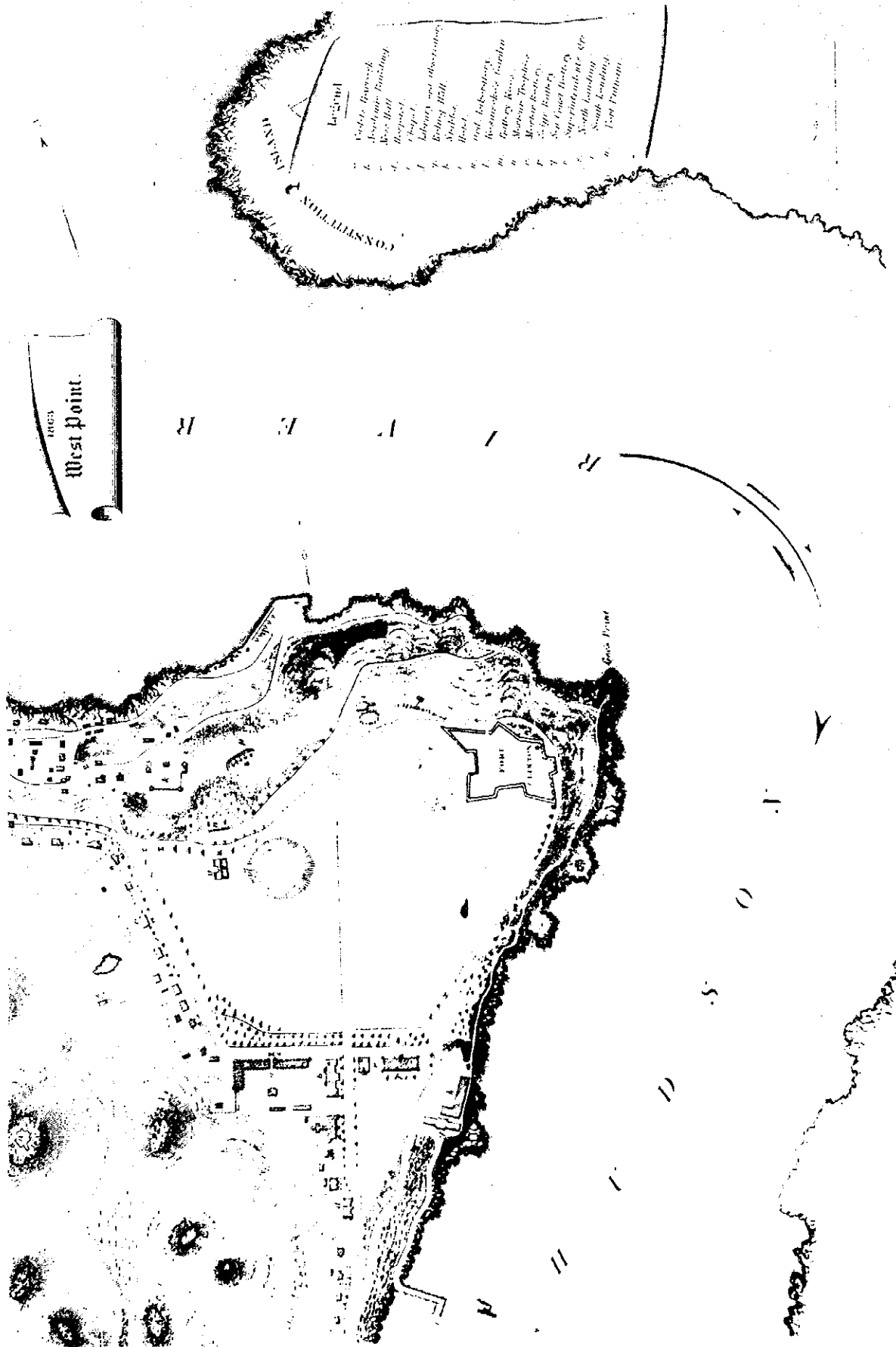
Special Collections Branch, USMA Library



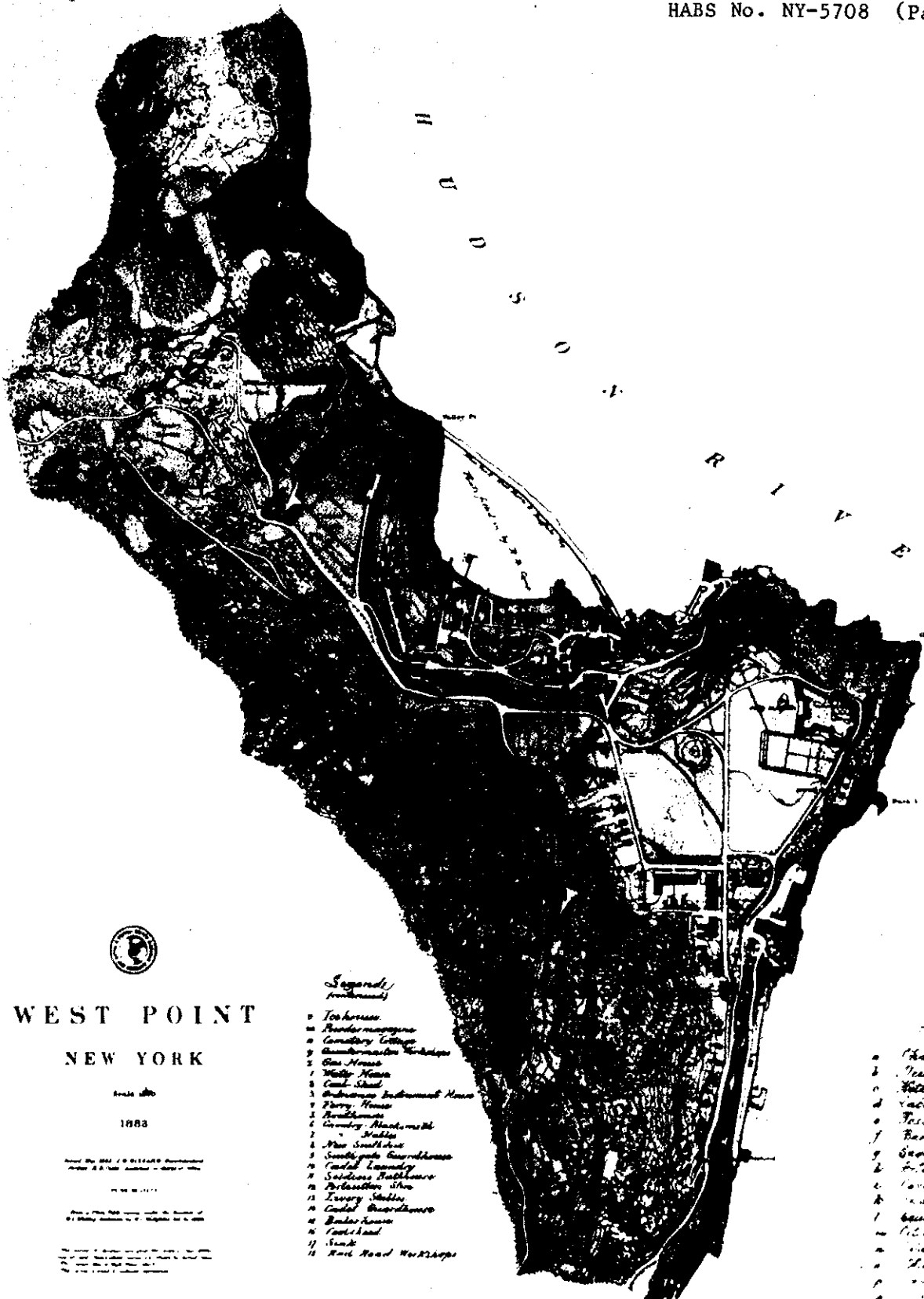
3. The Plain and Camptown, as seen from the northwest. The large buildings right of center include: the Academy (right), South Barracks (center), and North Barracks (left).

ca. 1830

USMA Archives



4. This map of the Academic area, from Boynton's "History of West Point," shows how the Barracks, Academic Building, Chapel, and Library served as the southern border of the Plain during the second half of the 19th century.



WEST POINT NEW YORK

Scale 1:50,000

1888

Printed by the U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Washington, D.C.

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

West Point, New York, 1888. Scale 1:50,000.

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Legend

1. Toth House
2. Powder Magazine
3. Cemetery Cottage
4. Quartermaster's Workshop
5. Gun House
6. Military House
7. Cook House
8. Ordnance Inspection House
9. Ferry House
10. Armory
11. Gunpowder Magazine
12. New South Gate
13. South Gate Guardhouse
14. Cadet Laundry
15. Soldiers' Bathhouse
16. Prisoner's Shop
17. Laundry Building
18. Cadet Guardhouse
19. Baker House
20. Post Office
21. Bank
22. Rail Road Workshops

Legend

1. Chapel
2. New Hospital
3. Hotel
4. Laboratory
5. Post Office
6. Band Barracks
7. Gymnasium
8. Artillery
9. Cavalry
10. Infantry Barracks
11. Engineer Barracks
12. Artillery Barracks
13. Cavalry Barracks
14. Infantry Barracks
15. Engineer Barracks
16. Artillery Barracks
17. Cavalry Barracks
18. Infantry Barracks
19. Engineer Barracks
20. Artillery Barracks
21. Cavalry Barracks
22. Infantry Barracks
23. Engineer Barracks
24. Artillery Barracks
25. Cavalry Barracks
26. Infantry Barracks
27. Engineer Barracks
28. Artillery Barracks
29. Cavalry Barracks
30. Infantry Barracks
31. Engineer Barracks
32. Artillery Barracks
33. Cavalry Barracks
34. Infantry Barracks
35. Engineer Barracks
36. Artillery Barracks
37. Cavalry Barracks
38. Infantry Barracks
39. Engineer Barracks
40. Artillery Barracks
41. Cavalry Barracks
42. Infantry Barracks
43. Engineer Barracks
44. Artillery Barracks
45. Cavalry Barracks
46. Infantry Barracks
47. Engineer Barracks
48. Artillery Barracks
49. Cavalry Barracks
50. Infantry Barracks
51. Engineer Barracks
52. Artillery Barracks
53. Cavalry Barracks
54. Infantry Barracks
55. Engineer Barracks
56. Artillery Barracks
57. Cavalry Barracks
58. Infantry Barracks
59. Engineer Barracks
60. Artillery Barracks
61. Cavalry Barracks
62. Infantry Barracks
63. Engineer Barracks
64. Artillery Barracks
65. Cavalry Barracks
66. Infantry Barracks
67. Engineer Barracks
68. Artillery Barracks
69. Cavalry Barracks
70. Infantry Barracks
71. Engineer Barracks
72. Artillery Barracks
73. Cavalry Barracks
74. Infantry Barracks
75. Engineer Barracks
76. Artillery Barracks
77. Cavalry Barracks
78. Infantry Barracks
79. Engineer Barracks
80. Artillery Barracks
81. Cavalry Barracks
82. Infantry Barracks
83. Engineer Barracks
84. Artillery Barracks
85. Cavalry Barracks
86. Infantry Barracks
87. Engineer Barracks
88. Artillery Barracks
89. Cavalry Barracks
90. Infantry Barracks
91. Engineer Barracks
92. Artillery Barracks
93. Cavalry Barracks
94. Infantry Barracks
95. Engineer Barracks
96. Artillery Barracks
97. Cavalry Barracks
98. Infantry Barracks
99. Engineer Barracks
100. Artillery Barracks

5. This map of the Academy shows the expansion which occurred in the late 19th century. Note the expansion which has taken place north-west of the Plain.

the present south gate, comprising about 225 acres, was purchased from the estate of Edward V. Kinsley in 1889. Beginning in 1890,⁴ the old Kinsley House was briefly used as quarters for three married officers.

The first decade of this century witnessed the addition of two more tracts to the military reservation. In 1903 the Dassori tract was purchased, filling in the area to the west of the Kinsley Tract and to the south of the Gridley Tract. In 1909, Constitution Island, along the eastern shore of the Hudson, was donated to the Academy by Mrs. Russell Sage and Anna Warner. Despite these additions, the size of the Cadet Corps and the scope of the Academy continued to outgrow its boundaries during the early 20th century (Illustration #6). In the mid-1930s, West Point experienced an expansion in the Cadet Corps of fifty percent. On March 31, 1931, the West Point Land Acquisition Act was approved by Congress. This Act would lead to a three-fold expansion of property at West Point.

This expansion was initiated to provide for four needs expressed by the Academy.⁵

Adequate and unpolluted water supply. Recent water shortages had caused West Point to be dependent upon outside jurisdictions. In addition, the popularity of the nearby ponds and lakes, especially Popolopen Lake, as summer camps led to a situation where insufficient controls over the disposal of sewage was threatening the sanitation of the Academy's water supply.

A landing field where cadets could become familiar with the potential of aviation in military tactics. After the First World War, it was obvious that the role of the airplane in military tactics would be significant. Up until



6. After two World Wars, the Military Academy had grown to occupy nearly all of the habitable 19th century property and acquired hundreds of acres to the west to accommodate modern training needs.

March 1948

USMA Archives

718

this time the only contact cadets had with airplanes was the sea plane which operated from the north shore of the academic area and the occasional trips to distant Army airfields.

Adequate maneuver and range areas with the capabilities of utilizing modern tactics. Prior to World War I, the rifle used for training at West Point had a maximum range of 500 yards. By the 1930s, weapons had a range of three to five times the length of the 300 yard infantry range. Limited area prohibited the practice of modern war games or field artillery practice. Advancing technology called for larger training areas.

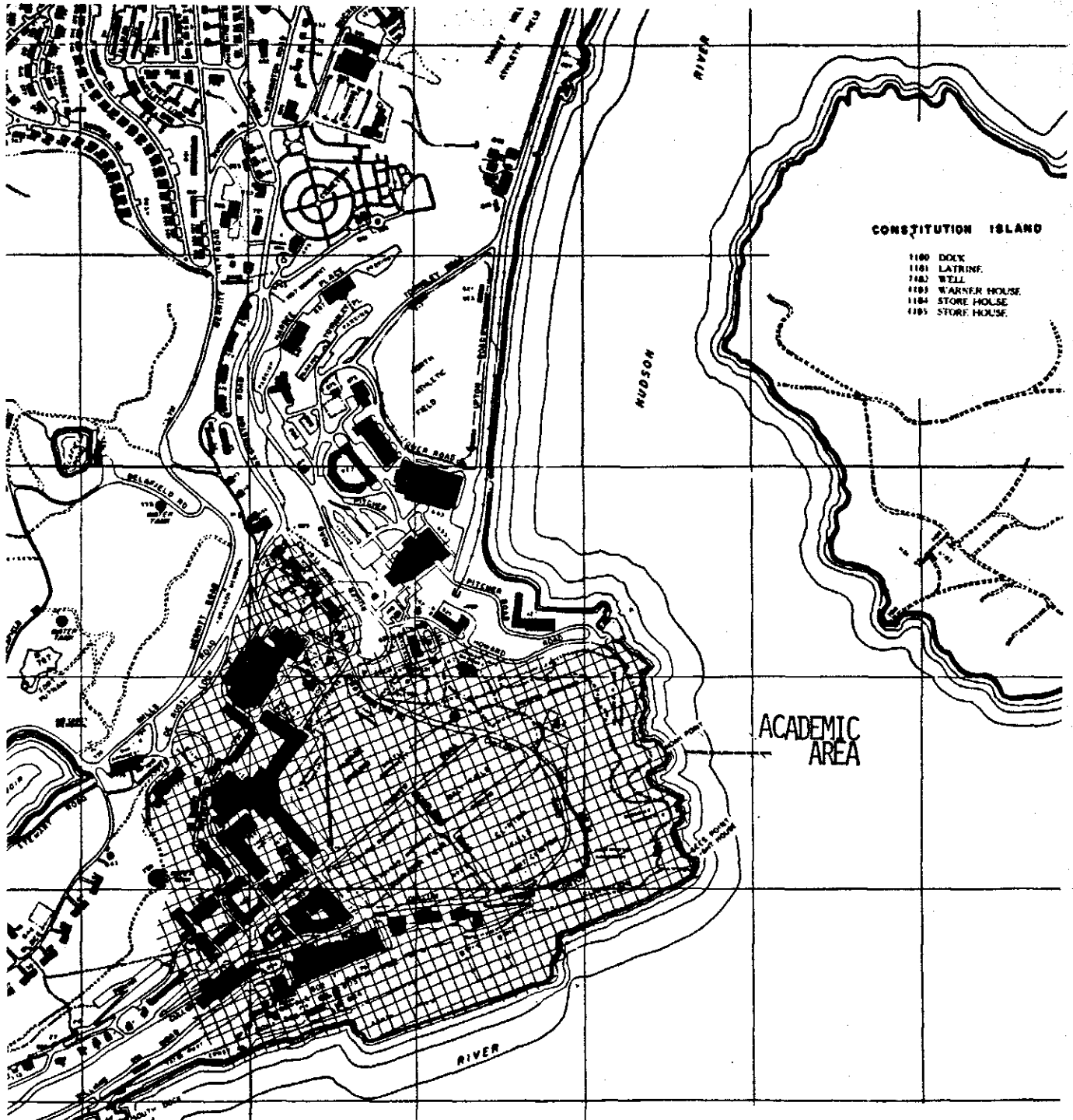
Adequate room for future expansion and protection from the pressure of the ever-expanding metropolitan area. Summer and winter colonies had already threatened the water supply and limited the use of artillery practice near settled areas and heavily travelled roads. The desire was to have greater control over the adjacent area, for fear of having "roadhouses, hot dog stands, etc..." at the Academy gates.

ACADEMIC AREA

The Academic area is located on a point of land which juts out from the west shore of the Hudson River. It is this topographical situation which led to the use of the term, West Point. The utilization of this site has historically been dependent upon the availability of flat open space in an otherwise hilly area. As the largest and most historic area at West Point, the Academic area's importance goes back to the Revolutionary War, when it contained Fort Clinton, the Great Chain and numerous redoubts. The level ground nearest this point, historically known as the Plain, is bordered on the north and the east by the Hudson River. A steep slope, which leads down to the area identified as the Post Services area, creates the northwest border. The southwest border is formed by a rocky ridge, and the southern border is marked by the beginning of the South End Officers' Quarters area. The Academic area at West Point occupies one of the most commanding sites along the Hudson River (illustration #7).

Having served as a parade ground, cadet summer camp, and cavalry and artillery drill ground, the Plain presently contains a parade ground and several athletic fields. Historically and presently, the Academic area has contained those buildings directly related to the teaching mission of the Academy, including: Cadet Barracks, Academic and Administration Buildings, Library, Gymnasium, Chapel, and Mess Hall.

The architecture of these buildings has, over the years, varied in style, but the buildings have continued to define sharply and preserve the openness of the Plain. In most cases, later additions strengthened rather than lessened its visual impact. It remains the most historic of all areas at the Academy, as central to Academy life now as it was in the early 19th century.



7. Location map showing the Academic Area, as defined by the HABS Historic Structures Inventory.

1978

USMA Planning Office (modified)

Early-19th-century officer quarters and mid-19th-century Gothic designs combine to reflect West Point's early appearance. Late-19th-century designs represent a period of architectural experimentation, when a brief flirtation with the prevailing Beaux-Arts Classicism left a few ill-fitting designs in the Academic area. A major architectural expansion program in 1903 re-affirmed the Gothic style at West Point and established it as the prevalent style for ensuing decades. In nearly every instance since the implementation of the 1903 design scheme, the designers of new buildings have sought to conform with that style, firmly establishing the architectural character of the Academy. The success of this adherence has reached its height in the example of a few mid-20th-century designs which stand in perfect harmony with the surrounding environment.

To trace the development of the Academic area, a chronological approach will be taken. Through such an approach it should become clear that the structural development of this important part of West Point consisted mostly of non-planned expansion. Only during a few periods in its history did the growth of the Academy follow any planned scheme. The following sections will trace the few peaks and the numerous valleys in the quality of cohesive design in the Academic area.

West Point in Infancy

During the first decades of West Point's development, the important architectural themes and placement of buildings had not yet occurred. Not until the late 1830s would the major themes of Gothic-inspired architecture and the maintenance of an open Plain begin. Although a complete investigation of the Revolutionary War period could be discussed at length, only a brief sketch is relevant to this report, as no buildings remain from before 1820.

201 717551

In addition to Fort Clinton, at the northeastern edge of the Plain, (illustration #8) this area contained a number of Revolutionary War redoubts, barracks and quarters. One of only a few Revolutionary War sites still in evidence is Kosciuszko's Garden, below Cullum Hall. This was the site where General Thaddeus Kosciuszko sought relaxation from his duties as officer in charge of constructing fortifications. One other interesting site, since obscured, is that of Execution Hollow. Located on the northwestern end of the Plain, this hollow received its name due to alleged executions on this site during the Revolutionary War. Not to waste the opportunity afforded by such a unique topographical feature, this hollow contained a number of tennis courts during the late 19th century, until the area was filled in with dirt excavated from the Bartlett Hall site in 1912 (illustration #9).⁶

In 1802, when the Academy was founded, a number of buildings relating to the earlier war-time use of West Point as a military post remained to serve the needs of the Academy. In 1808 Congress authorized an expansion of the Cadet Corps from only a handful to over three hundred. With appropriations approved by Congress, West Point could finally erect a number of buildings in the area of the Plain. Included among the new buildings were the Academy, built in 1815, and the South and North Barracks, built in 1815 and 1817, respectively (illustration #10). The spartan existence of cadet life in these barracks is reflected in an 1838 account which states that the cadets had not yet received bed frames and were sleeping on mattresses on the floor.⁷ An 1842 description reports that the North Barracks contained forty rooms, each 25'-4" x 19'-9". This barracks held 160 cadets, four to a room. The South Barracks contained fifty rooms, forty-eight of which were 13'-8" x 10'-5", the other two being double this size. There were usually only



8. A reminder of the strategic importance of West Point during the Revolutionary War, Fort Clinton continued to occupy the northeast corner of the Plain long after it became obsolete.

ca. 1886

USMA Archives



9. West of the old West Point Hotel (at right) and the Battle Monument (center) stood "Execution Hollow." Allegedly used as an execution site during the Revolutionary War, it was adapted for use as tennis courts during the late 19th century.

ca. 1900

USMA Archives



View of the West Point Military Academy. The point is especially beautiful by the fountain. View of the Academy.

10. The Plain, showing North Barracks at left, South Barracks, the Academy, the Mess Hall, and the Wood Monument at right. By George Catlin.

ca. 1828

USMA Library

three cadets per room. This barracks was criticized for having rats, mice, and bedbugs, and for smelling like "moist decaying wood."⁸ All of these buildings were gone by the 1850s, either destroyed by fire or demolished.

The next building for which information was found is the Superintendent's Quarters (#100), built in 1820. Despite extensive remodeling, this building stands along the western end of the Plain, the oldest building at the Academy. Built during the superintendency of Sylvanus Thayer (illustration #11), the building was used as his office and quarters (illustrations #12). (See HABS No. NY-5708-1 for a detailed description and history.)

During the 19th century, officers' quarters lined the street across from the Plain's western border (illustration #13). All the quarters which stood south of the Superintendent's Quarters were torn down shortly after the turn of the century to make room for the new North Barracks. To the north of the Superintendent's Quarters is another officer's quarters, built in 1821, now known as the Commandant's Quarters (#101). (See HABS No. NY-5708-2 for a detailed description and history of Quarters #101.)

Another early building located in the Academic area was Gridley's, or North's, Tavern. During the late 1820s, the old frame building (illustration #14) was relocated from the area presently occupied by the Headquarters Building (#600), to the area presently occupied by Building 606. The building continued to operate as a tavern until it was purchased by the government in the 1830s. It was destroyed some time before the end of the 19th century.



11. Sylvanus Thayer, known as the "Father of the Military Academy," served as Superintendent from 1817-1833.



12. The Superintendent's Quarters, the oldest remaining building at the Academy, was built in 1820. It is situated on the western edge of the Plain.

ca. 1870

USMA Archives



13. A row of officer's quarters across from the Plain's western border, south of the Superintendent's Quarters. These early, and mid-19th century buildings were demolished around the turn of the 20th century.

ca. 1880

USMA Archives



14. Gridley's (or North's) Tavern after it was relocated in the late 1820s from its original site south of the Plain to this site behind the old Cadet Hospital.

ca. 1870

USMA Archives

In 1828 a monument designed by John M. Latrobe, class of 1822, was erected in memory of General Thaddeus Kosciuszko (illustration #15). Latrobe was the son of the well known Classical architect, Benjamin H. Latrobe. This tribute to the Polish officer was a marble pedestal and shaft located at the edge of Fort Clinton. Eighty-five years later, a statue of the General was added to the top of the shaft. The Kosciuszko monument continues to dominate the northeastern end of the Plain.

During the late 1820s three sets of double officers' quarters (#103, 105, 107) were erected northwest of the Superintendent's and Commandant's quarters, on Washington Road. Originally built of stone, these buildings have acquired numerous additions of various materials. Known as Professors Row, these buildings have traditionally housed the academic department heads. (See HABS No. NY-5708-4, NY-5708-5, and NY-5708-6 for a detailed description and history.)

In 1829 the West Point Hotel was built on the area now known as Trophy Point (illustration #16). Its site provided both a view of the annual cadet summer camp on the Plain (illustration #17, 18) and the beautiful scenery up the Hudson River. The original building was a three-story structure containing thirty-seven rooms. In 1850, a three-story brick wing with forty-three rooms was added to the buildings west side. In 1870, a two-story brick addition with two rooms was added to the 1850 wing, and, in 1879, another story containing one room was added to this wing. Several other brick and frame wings were added, including an 1860 stable and an 1890 laundry (#632). By 1889, the hotel had a total of 102 rooms (illustration #19).⁹ During the hundred years the hotel stood at Trophy Point, it received many important visitors. In addition to the hundreds of short term visitors, the hotel catered to long term residents such as the mothers of Douglas MacArthur and U.S. Grant III, who resided at the West Point Hotel while their



15. Kosciusko's Monument prior to the 1913 addition of a statue on top of the shaft. The original monument was designed by John M. Latrobe in 1828.

ca. 1864

USMA Archives



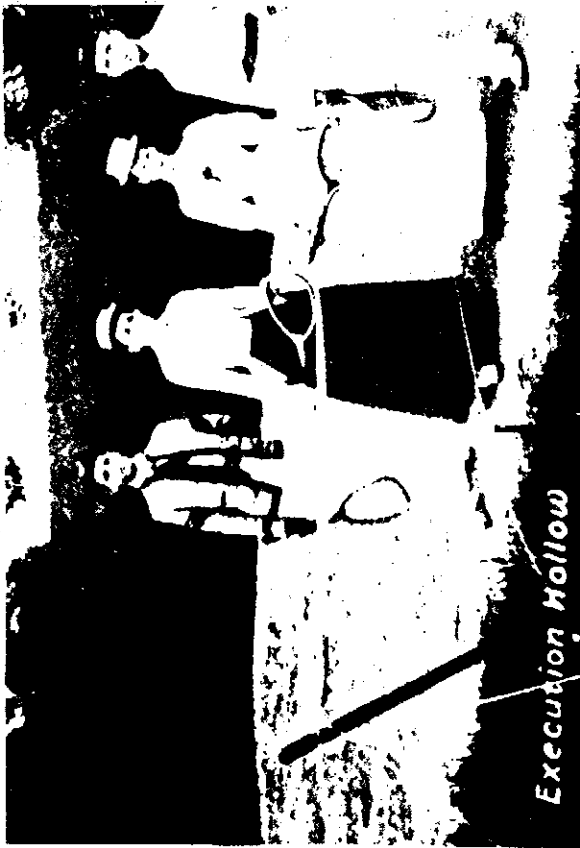
16. The old West Point Hotel, built in 1829, stood at the north end of the Plain for a century.

ca. 1861

USMA Archives



17. Until recent times, the Plain served as the Cadet Summer Camp where cadets were instructed in military drill and tactics.



18. Cadets and their guests relaxing on the Plain during the summer of 1890.



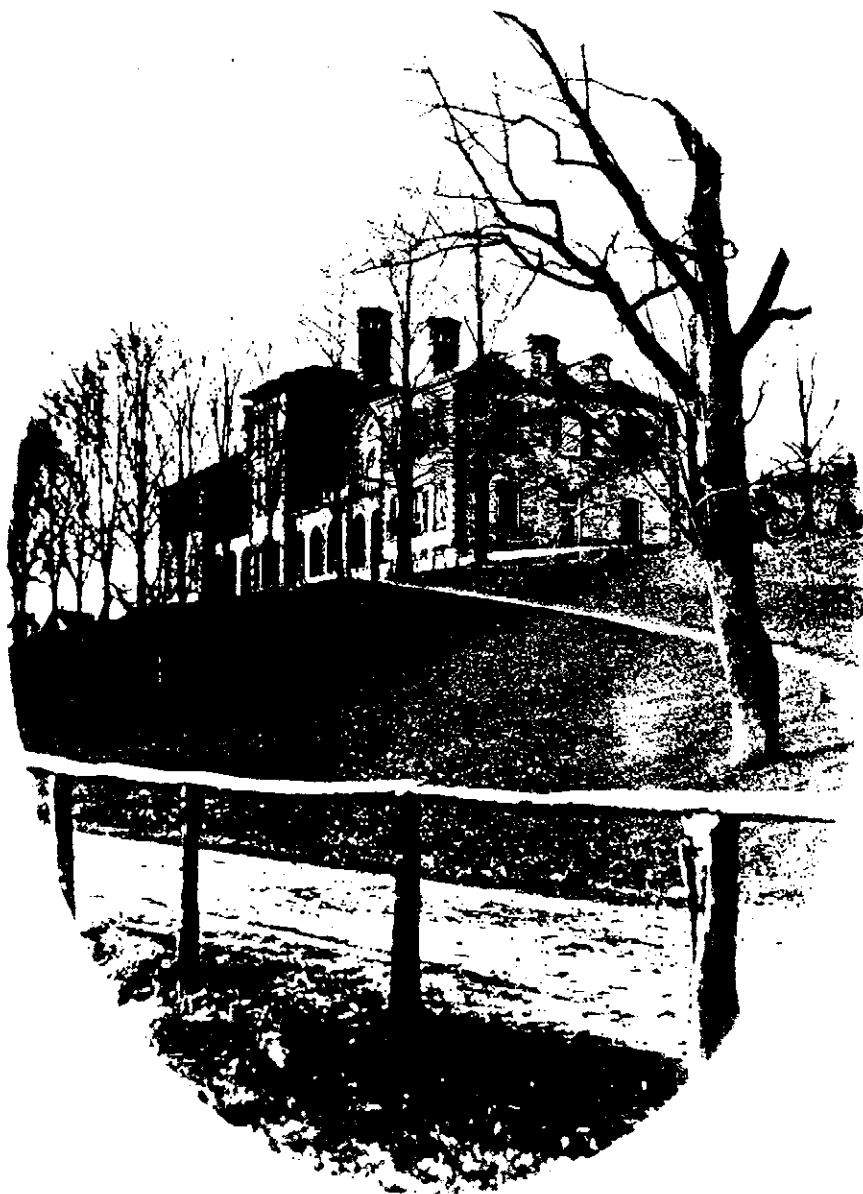
19. Engineering training on the Plain. The West Point Hotel is in the background (at left), with the only surviving part of the Hotel, the Laundry Building, at center.

sons' were cadets. The hotel was demolished in the early 1930s, after it had been replaced by Hotel Thayer at the south end of the Post. The hotel's laundry building is the only portion of the old hotel that remains.

In 1830, the original Cadet Hospital was built south of the Plain, along Thayer Road (on the site now occupied by Building 606) (illustration #20). The two-story structure had a full attic and basement as well as a veranda along its central section. In 1886, the hospital was turned into four sets of officer's quarters. It was demolished around the turn of the century.

The Cadet Chapel, built in 1836, was West Point's first building of architectural distinction. Located on the present site of Bartlett Hall (#753), this typical Classical Revival temple also housed various trophies of American military involvements. In addition to its architectural merit, the Chapel was important as the first of three permanent structures which would establish the new southern boundary of the Plain (the earlier buildings were located farther north on the Plain). In 1910, the Chapel was relocated to the cemetery. (See the section on the Cemetery for additional information.)

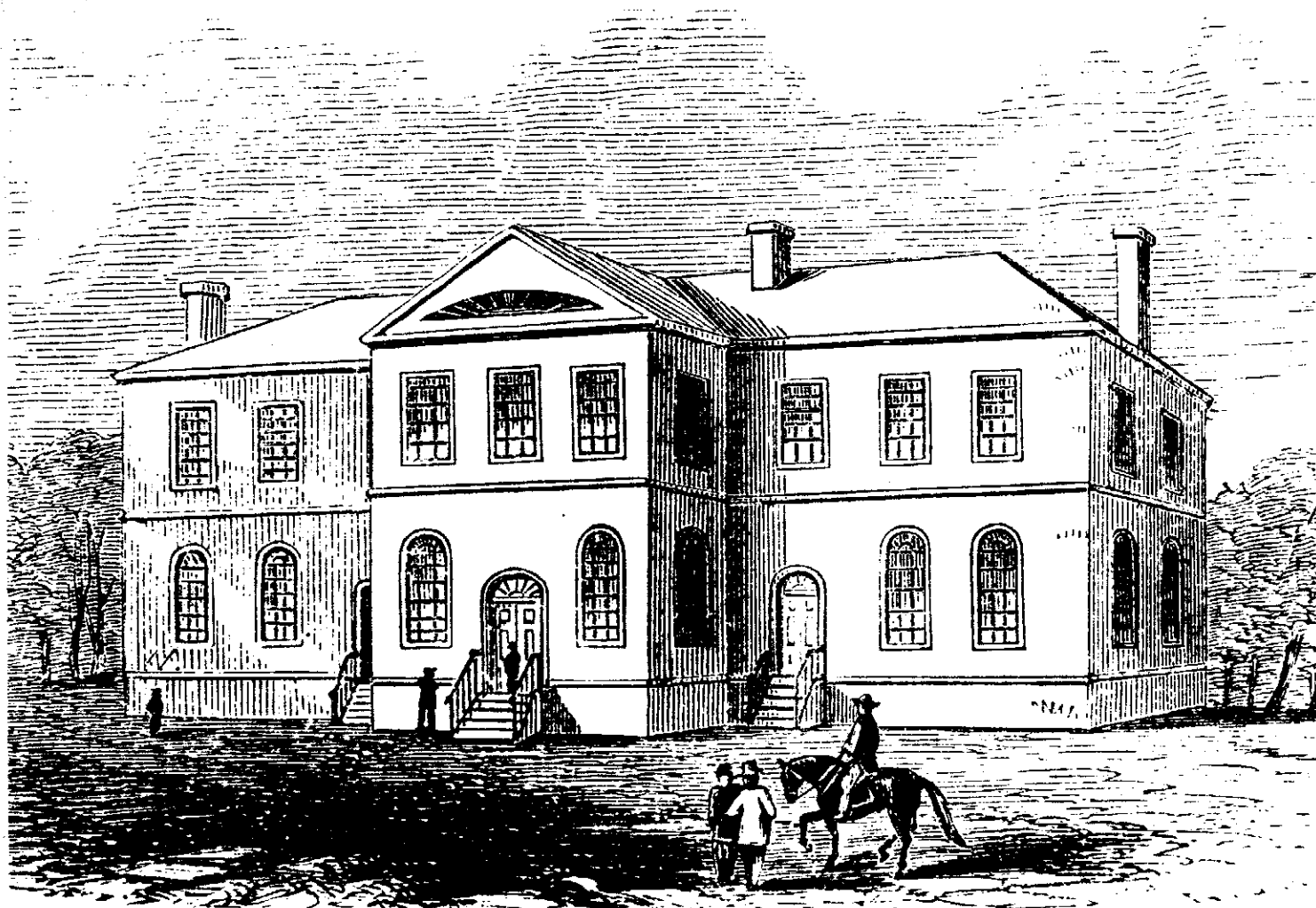
On February 19, 1838, a date important to the architectural development of West Point, a fire destroyed the old Academy building, which had been located at the southern end of the Plain (illustration #21). The Academy had housed the Engineering, Chemical and Philosophy Departments and the Library. Also destroyed were most of the Academy records maintained up to that time. As is often the case, sudden destruction of a major building provided the opportunity to inaugurate a new building design and layout. The replacement for the old Academy would constitute such an impetus.



20. The original Cadet Hospital was built in 1830 and demolished around the turn of the 20th century. It stood south of the major buildings of the Academic core.

ca. 1870

USMA Archives



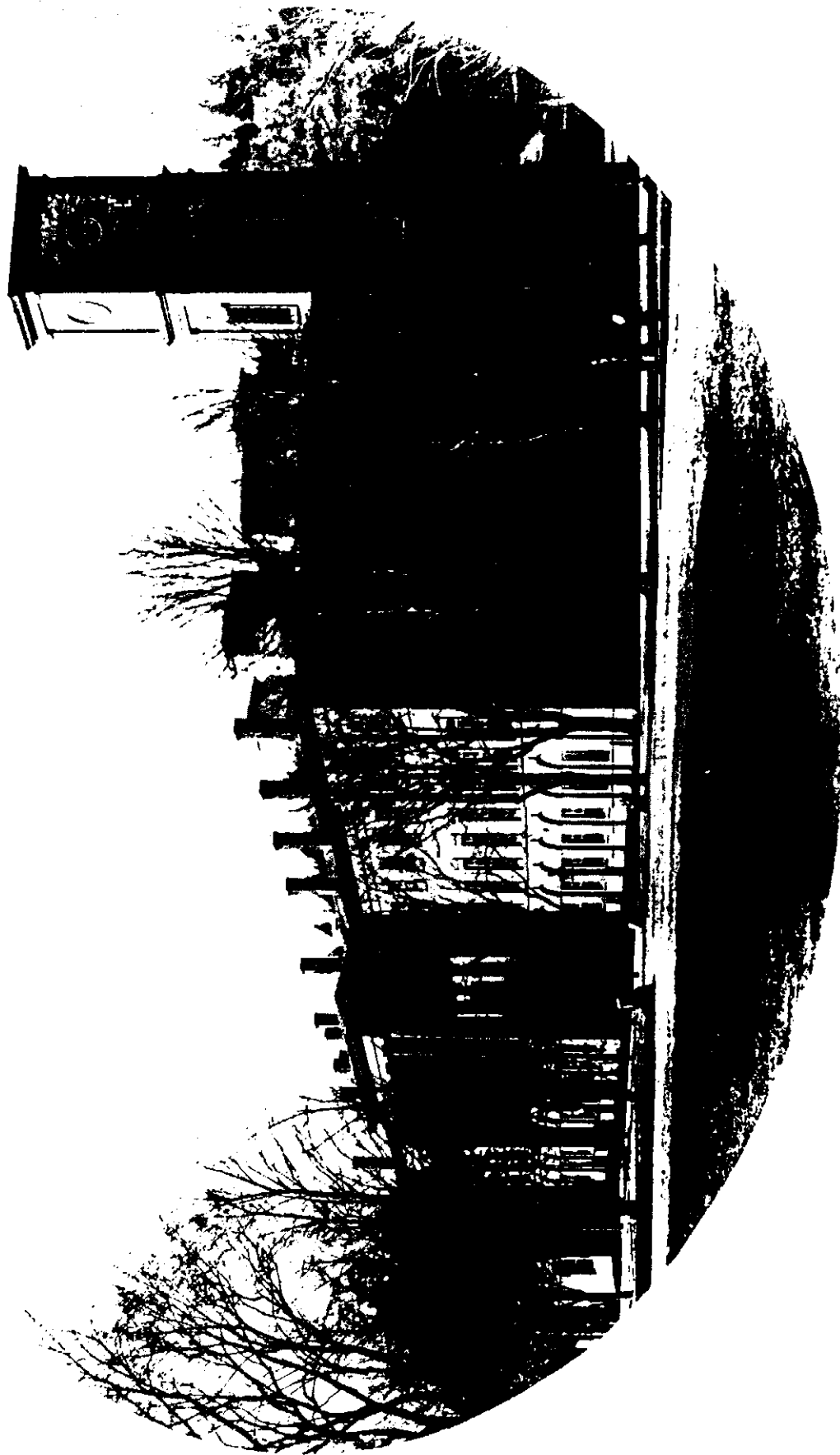
21. The old Academy, built in 1815, was located on the southern portion of the Plain until it was destroyed by fire on February 19, 1838.

ca. 1860

USMA Archives

According to USMA records, a new Academic Building was built by 1839 on the site presently occupied by Pershing Barracks (#751). This building stood until 1891. The three-story stone building featured a hipped roof, round-arched openings on the first floor, and a two-story portico with six fluted Doric columns on its east side (illustration #22). According to an 1843 report, the first floor was used as a riding hall during the winter months. Much of the convenience offered by such a riding facility was offset by the danger imposed by the two rows of columns which ran the length of the riding area. The "Cavalry Exercise Hall" was 18' x 65' and it shared the first floor with a Fencing Hall and a Chemical Lab, which were each 75' x 38'. The second floor contained: mineral cabinets and the engineering academy, each 75' x 38'; a model room, 46' x 27'; and twelve recitation rooms, 24' x 32'. The third floor contained: an artillery model room, 75' x 38'; a drawing academy, 75' x 35'; two galleries for pictures and statues, each 70' x 22'; and six other recitation rooms (illustration #23).¹⁰

In 1857, a clock tower was added to the northwest corner of the building. Two stories above the roof, the square tower featured a clock designed by Ephraim N. Byran of Sag Harbor, New York.¹¹ Visible from most areas of the Academy, the clock became such an important landmark that special plans were made to remount it when the building was demolished (see the section discussing the new 1890s Academic Building, p. 21). Although original plans called for remodeling and expansion by adding a fourth floor in the late 1880s, the Academic Building was demolished altogether in 1891, and replaced by a new structure.



22. Replacing the original Academy Building, this Academic Building was completed by 1839 (the clock tower was added in the 1850s). It joined the Cadet Chapel along what would become the southern border of the Plain. It was torn down in 1891 and replaced by a new building.

ca. 1870

USMA Archives



23. Drawing instruction in the old Academic Building.

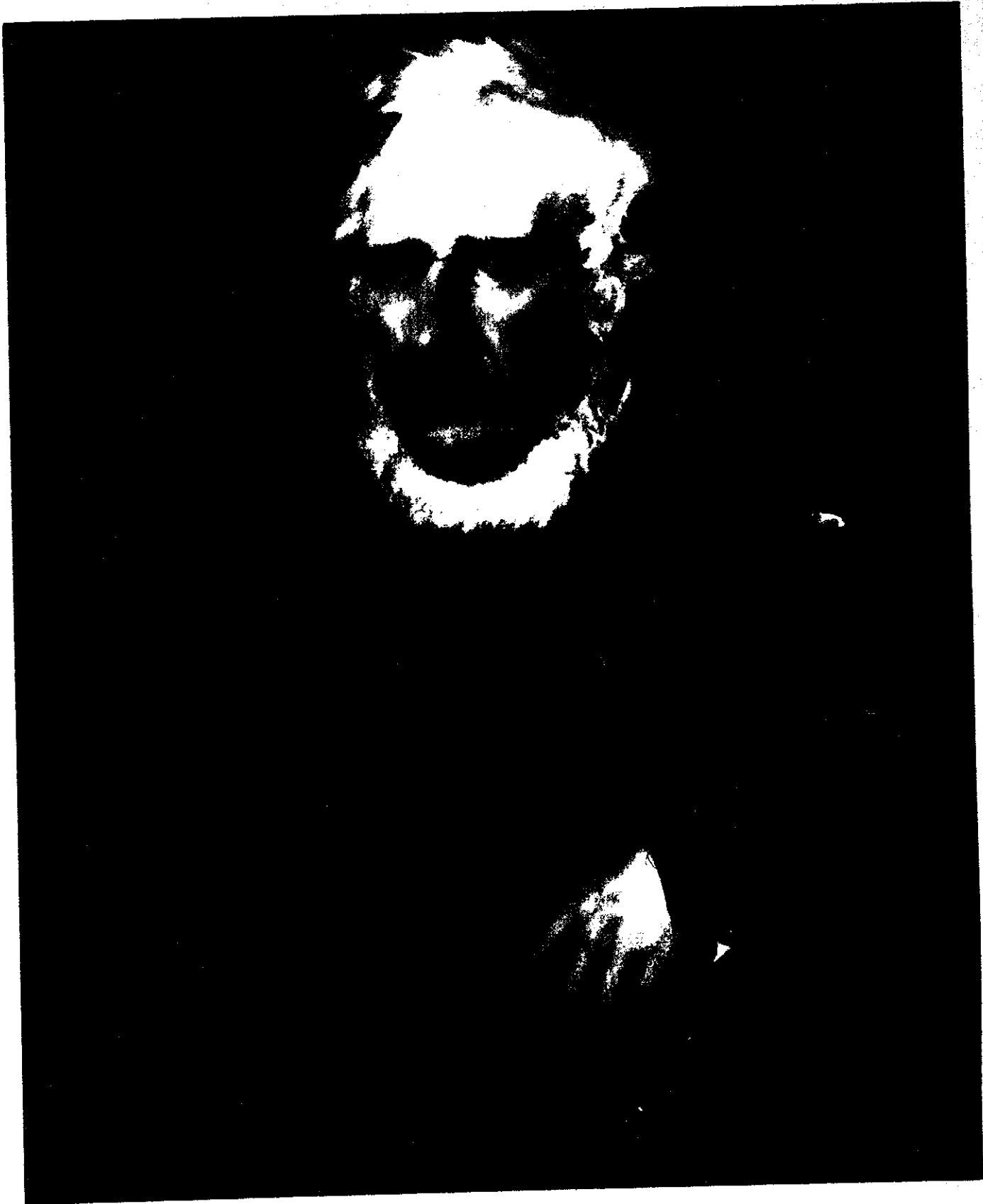
ca. 1880

USMA Archives

The Delafield Influence

In September, 1838, Major Richard Delafield (illustration #24) began his first of three non-consecutive periods as Superintendent (1838-1845, 1856-1861, and again in 1861 after his successor Major Beauregard, a Southerner, was replaced after only five days of service at the beginning of the Civil War). During each of his terms as Superintendent, Delafield took an active interest in the major buildings erected at the Academy. The Delafield name has been associated with three of the buildings which have been cited as examples that the winners of the important design competition of 1903 would follow in their Gothic Revival designs for the Academy.¹²

By 1840, the Ordnance Compound (#635-A, 635-B, 637, 671, 671-A) was completed at the extreme northwest edge of the Plain (illustration #25). The precise date of construction remains unknown, with the possibility that it was built in 1837, before Delafield ever arrived at West Point. The architect remains unknown, yet this design established the stylistic precedent which would be reflected in Delafield's later designs for the Library and the Cadet Barracks. The Ordnance Compound consists of three stone buildings and two octagonal towers joined by a stone wall. Historically, the buildings were used in relation to the Ordnance and Gunnery department for instruction and fabrication of munitions. During the mid-19th century, the open compound contained many of the military trophies which now occupy Trophy Point (illustration #26). The 1880s part of the building, which stands in the center of the compound, was built to serve as a blacksmith and carpentry shop. The octagonal towers at the southern corners of the compound are listed as "water closets" in 1889.¹³ (See HABS No. NY-5708-9, NY-5708-10, NY-5708-11, NY-5708-12, NY-5708-13, NY-5708-14, for detailed description and history.)



24. Major Richard Delafield, the "Builder" of West Point's important mid-19th century buildings. Delafield served as Superintendent for three non-consecutive periods between 1838 and 1864.

ca. 1860

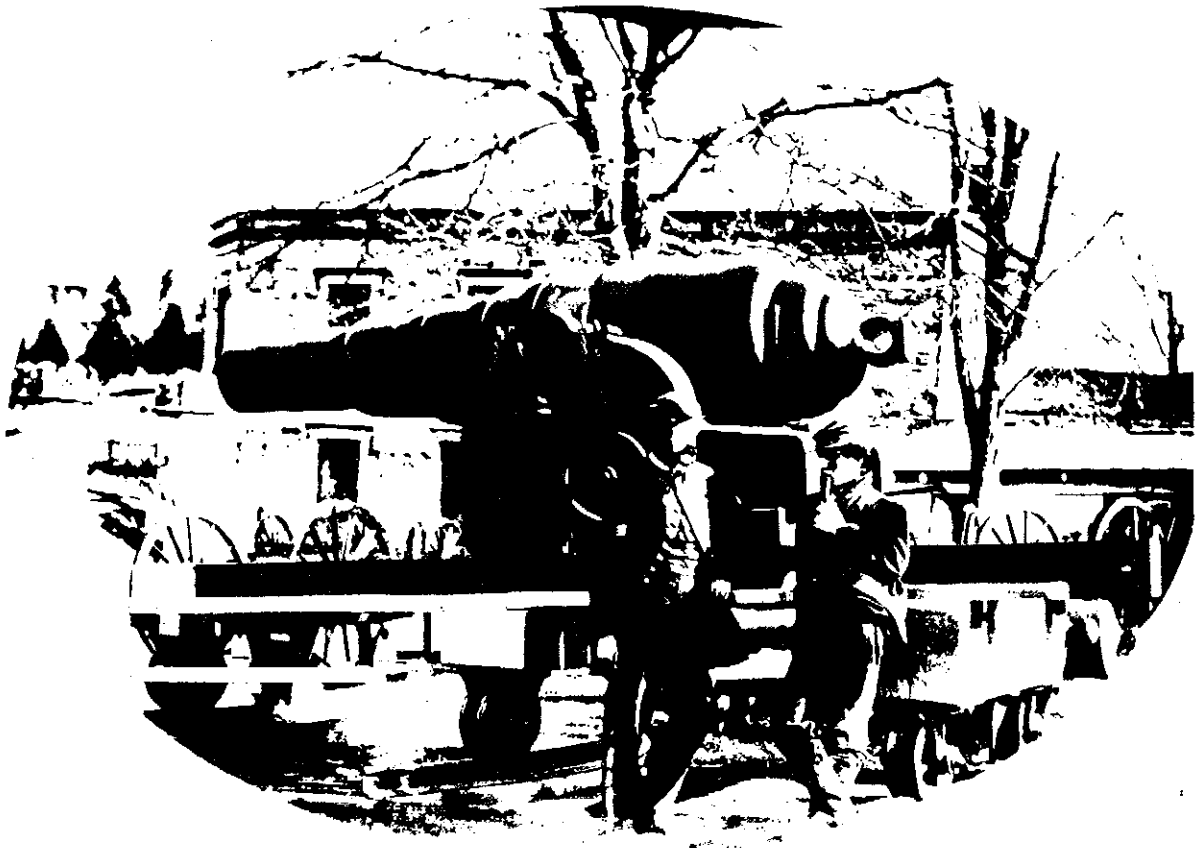
USMA Archives



25. The first of the Gothic designs at the Academy, the Ordnance Compound has occupied a site north of, and below, the Plain since the late 1830s.

ca. 1870

USMA Archives



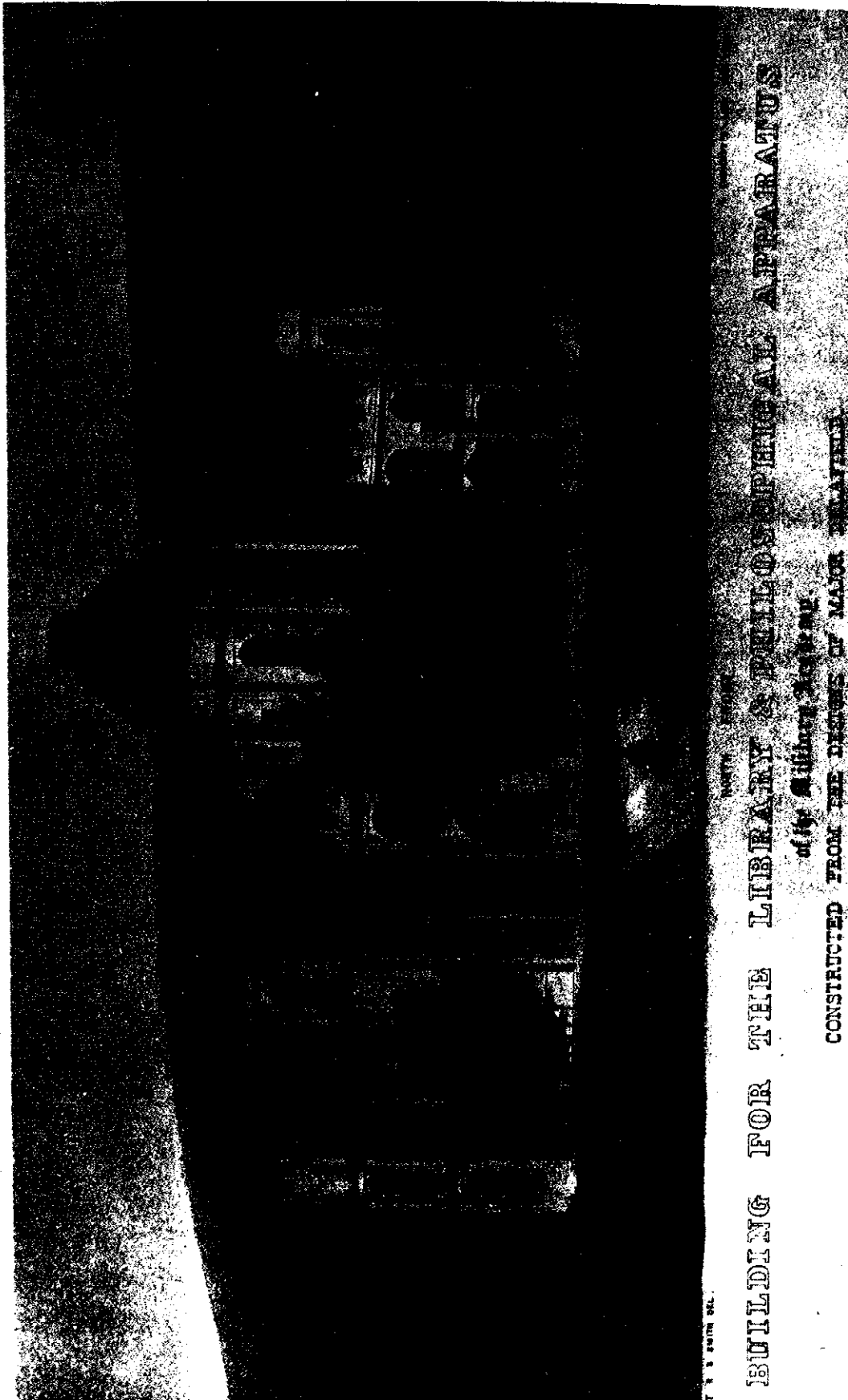
26. A captured "Armstrong" gun photographed inside the Ordnance Compound.

ca. 1870

USMA Archives

The next Delafield building is the old Library and Observatory, built in 1841 (illustration #27). At the southern boundary of the Plain (on the site presently occupied by the new library), it stood for nearly 120 years. A handsome Military Gothic design, it featured castellated corner and central towers. As originally designed, the towers were topped with domes, housing an Equatorial telescope in the central dome and transit instruments and a "mural circle" in the corner towers. The dome of the central tower is said to have been balanced on six 24-pound cannon balls, which served as bearings for its traverse.¹⁴ The east wing held the Academy library (illustration #28). The offices of the Superintendent, Adjutant, Quartermaster, and Treasurer were also located in the building, until the new Headquarters was built in 1870. The observatory instruments were moved to a new observatory around 1880 due to the disturbance to their accuracy caused by the construction of a railway tunnel under the Plain. (See section on the Lusk Area for information on the new observatory, p. 67.)

The Delafield influence with the library is a little clearer than is his association with the Ordnance Compound. A letter of February, 1839, explains that the prominent architect, Isaiah Rogers, sent plans for a library and a barracks to Major Delafield. In June of that year, both Rogers and another architect, Frederick Diaper, submitted to Delafield additional plans for the two buildings.¹⁵ Finding many problems with each set of plans, Delafield submitted a set of his own design for a library to the Secretary of War. He claimed that his plans combined the best features of both earlier designs, without any of the problems which existed in each of the others.¹⁶ By July, Delafield had acknowledged the approval of his design by the Secretary of War. It is important to note that the two sets of plans submitted by Rogers were in the Greek Revival style, thus correcting the misconception that Rogers actually designed any of these buildings at West Point (illustration #29). The design by Diaper for the



BUILDING FOR THE LIBRARY & PHYSICAL APPARATUS

of the Military Academy

CONSTRUCTED FROM THE DESIGN OF MAJOR BENJAMIN

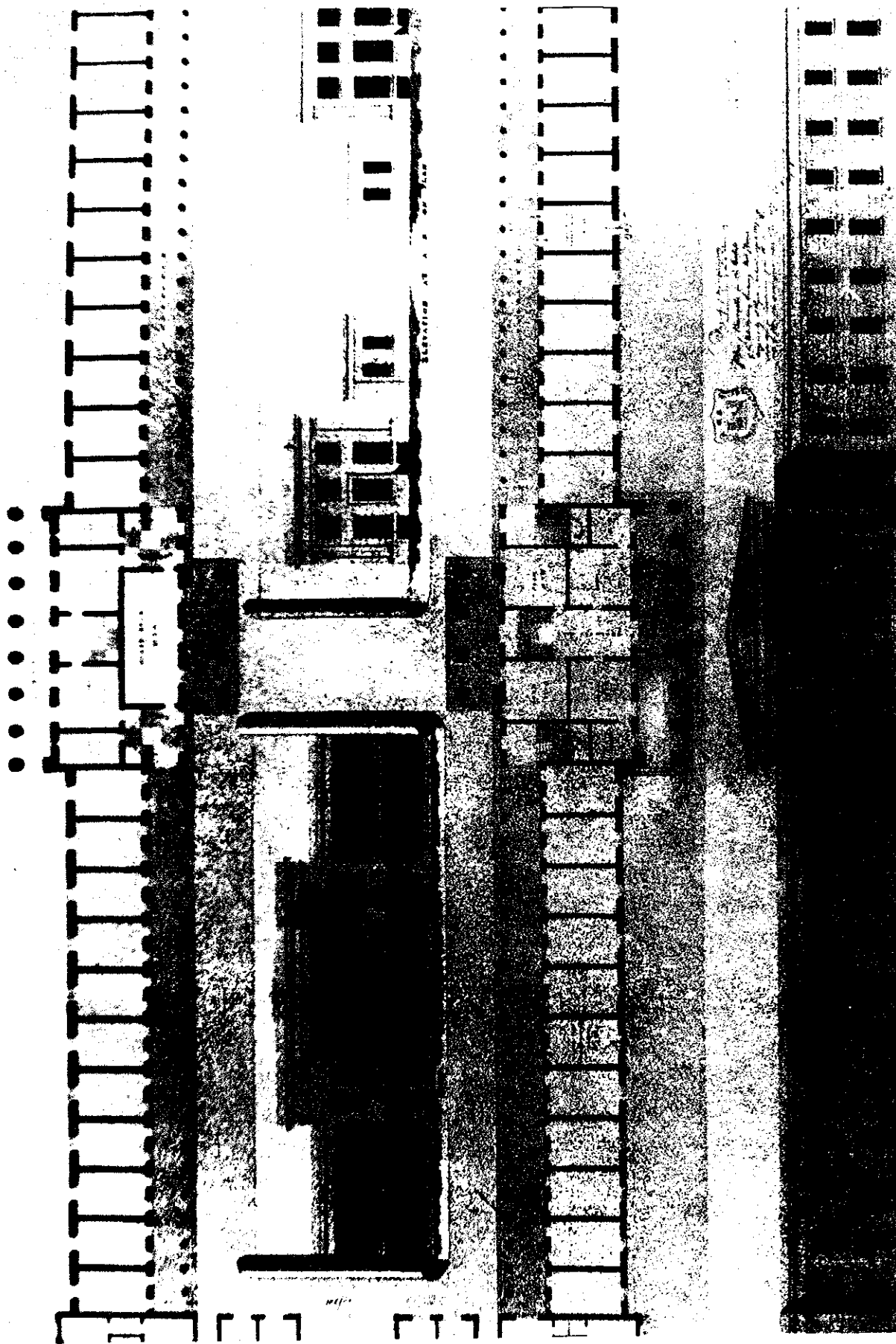
27. The old Library and Observatory built in 1841 in the Gothic style. This impressive structure stood across from the southern border of the Plain for 120 years.

ca. 1841

USMA Archives



28. An interior view of the old Library.



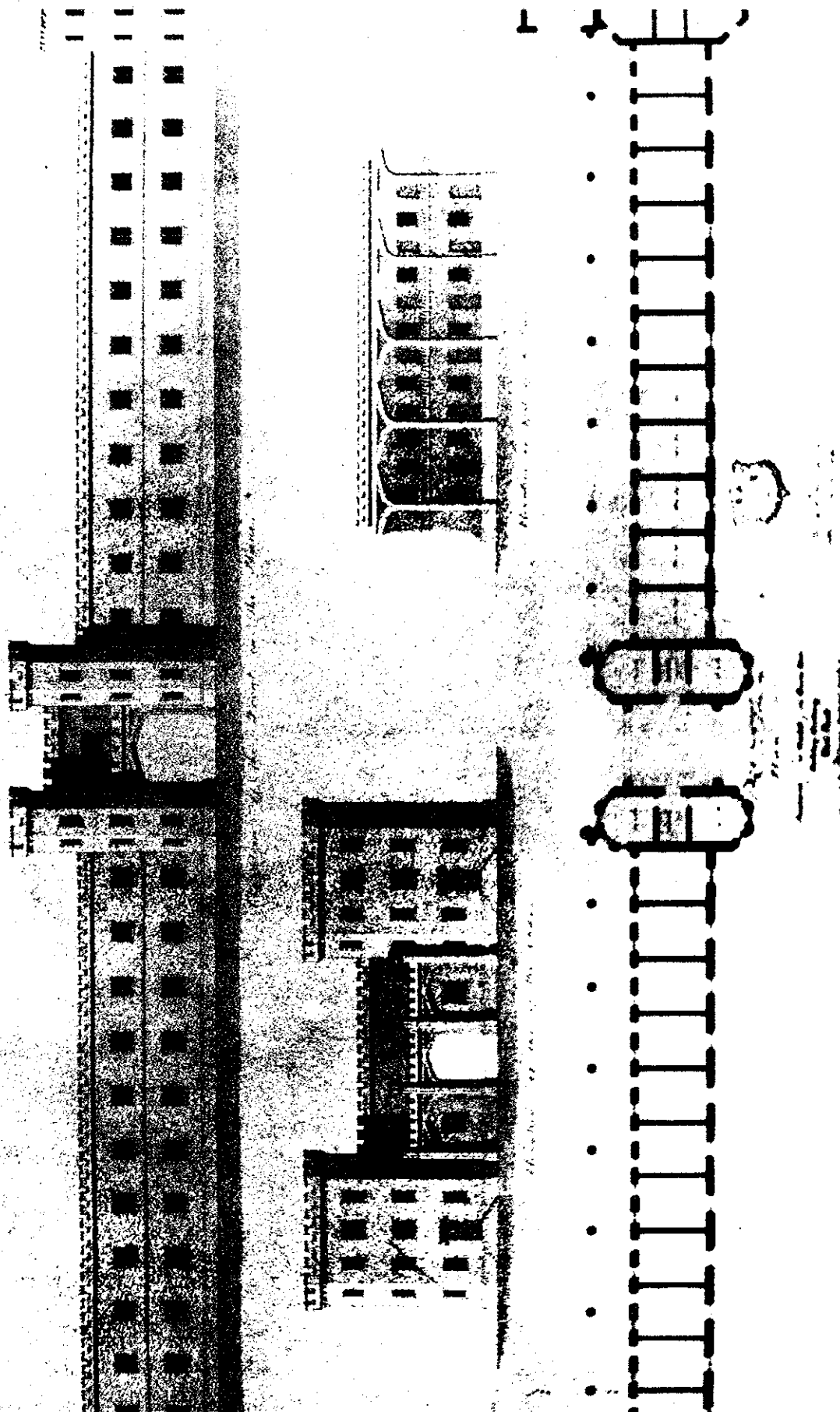
29. The Plans and Elevations of the proposed Cadet Barracks designed by the prominent architect, Isaiah Rogers. Contrary to previous beliefs, Roger's Greek Revival plans obviously had no relation to the Cadet Barracks which would be built a decade later.

barracks, which Delafield preferred, foreshadowed the form the barracks would take when built under Delafield's name ten years later.¹⁷ Diaper's drawings suggest that he either borrowed the style from the Ordnance Compound, or that he may have been the, as of yet, unidentified architect of the Ordnance Compound (illustration #30).

One interesting aside about the library is that its function during the mid-19th century was far more limited than one might expect. The 1873 Board of Visitors reported that Cadets were allowed to borrow books on Saturday afternoon only, and those were to be returned on Monday.¹⁸

The third of the early "Delafield buildings" is the old Central Barracks (#747). West of the Academic Building, the barracks served as the final reinforcement of the building line which marked the southern boundary of the Plain (illustration #31). Completed in 1851, this group of barracks consisted of 10 divisions, or sections, with no internal connection between each of the four-story divisions (illustration #32). Two divisions were added to the short end of the L-shaped group in 1887. In 1921, six more divisions were added to the south, completing three sides of the quadrangle. A single division of the original 1851 complex is all that remains of the old Gothic barracks, the rest having been demolished around 1960. (See HABS No. NY-5708-8 for detailed description and history.)

In addition to the important stylistic influence which these three buildings would play in the reaffirmation of the Gothic Revival style at the beginning of the 20th century, they also established the building line at the south end of the Plain (illustration #33). For over one hundred years the southern boundary of the Plain would not be encroached upon.



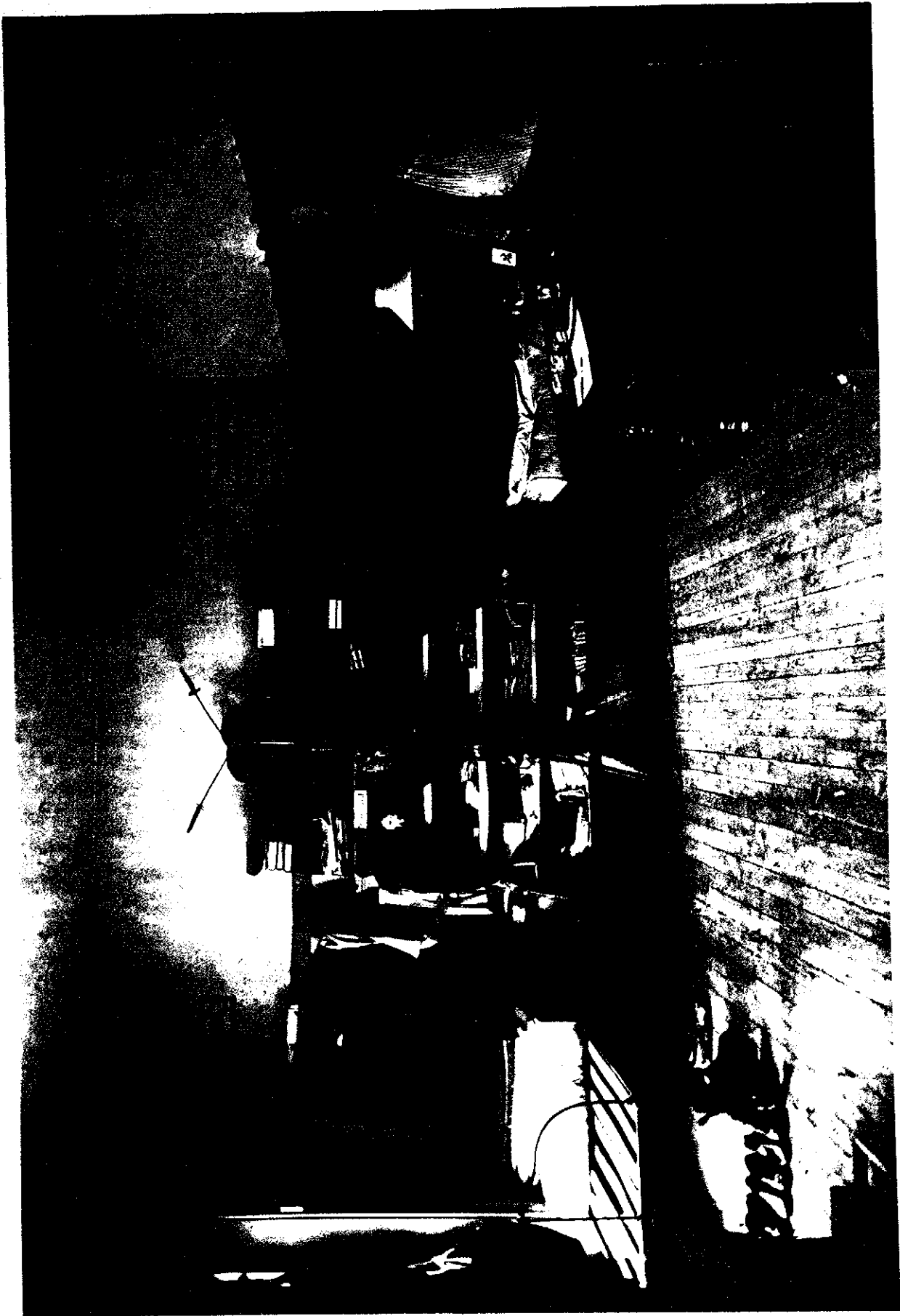
30. The Plan and Elevation of the proposed Cadet Barracks designed by F. Diaper. It appears that Superintendent Delafield incorporated this design into his plans for the Barracks a decade later.



31. The 1830s Academic Building (at left) and the 1850s Central Barracks
(center) facing the open Plain.

ca. 1861

USMA Archives



32. Old Central Barracks, interior.

ca. 1877

USMA Archives



33. The old Library, old Chapel, old Academic Building, and old Central Barracks fronted on an open drill and parade ground.

ca. 1855

USMA Archives

South of the Academic Building, on part of the site now occupied by Building #602, Grant Hall was erected in 1852 (illustration #34). A granite building measuring 170' x 64', this Mess Hall originally contained: a central room 100' x 50', and 20' tall (illustration #35); a north wing occupied by the purveyor of cadets; a south wing used as a mess for officers' and a kitchen and bakery attached to the rear (illustration #36). According to an 1889 account, the north end was then used to quarter two single officers.¹⁹ A less impressive version of the Gothic style and occupying a less prominent location, this building did not play as significant a role as the three "Delafield buildings." This building was razed by 1930 to make way for a new Grant Hall Barracks and Reception Hall (#602).

In 1852, a combination Commandant's Office and Cadet Guard House was built south of the Cadet barracks (on part of the site now occupied by Building #756). The two-and-one-half story brick building had a projecting tower at the center (illustration #37). At some time during the 1870s or 1880s, the front windows of the third floor of the tower were replaced with a clock, which was used for regulating guard duty and the punishment periods of those "walking the area."

An 1889 account describes the interior of the building as having a clock room, visitors room, and engine room, which contained one of the two Academy fire engines (illustration #38).²⁰

On the present site of Thayer Hall (#601), a riding hall and stable were under construction by 1855. In addition to the improvement over the dangerous riding hall which was lined with rows of columns, the advantage of this site, below the southeastern rim of the Plain, was its proximity to the cadet barracks and instruction room area. Another consideration was the health benefit of locating



34. The old Cadet Mess Hall was built south of the Academic Building in 1852. This building was replaced with a new barracks by 1931.



35. The old Cadet Mess Hall Dining Room.

ca. 1890

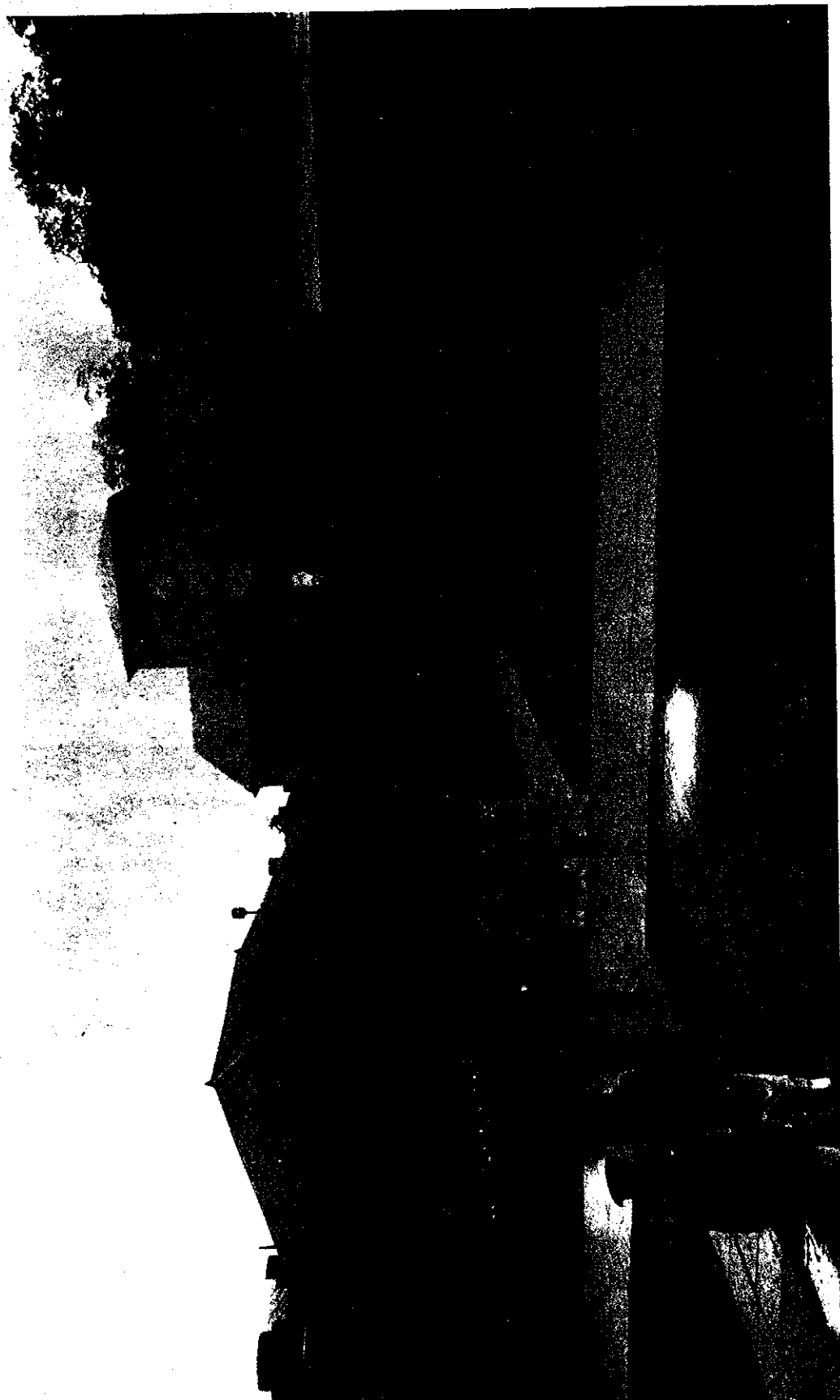
USMA Archives



36. Old Cadet Mess Bakery, interior.

ca. 1900

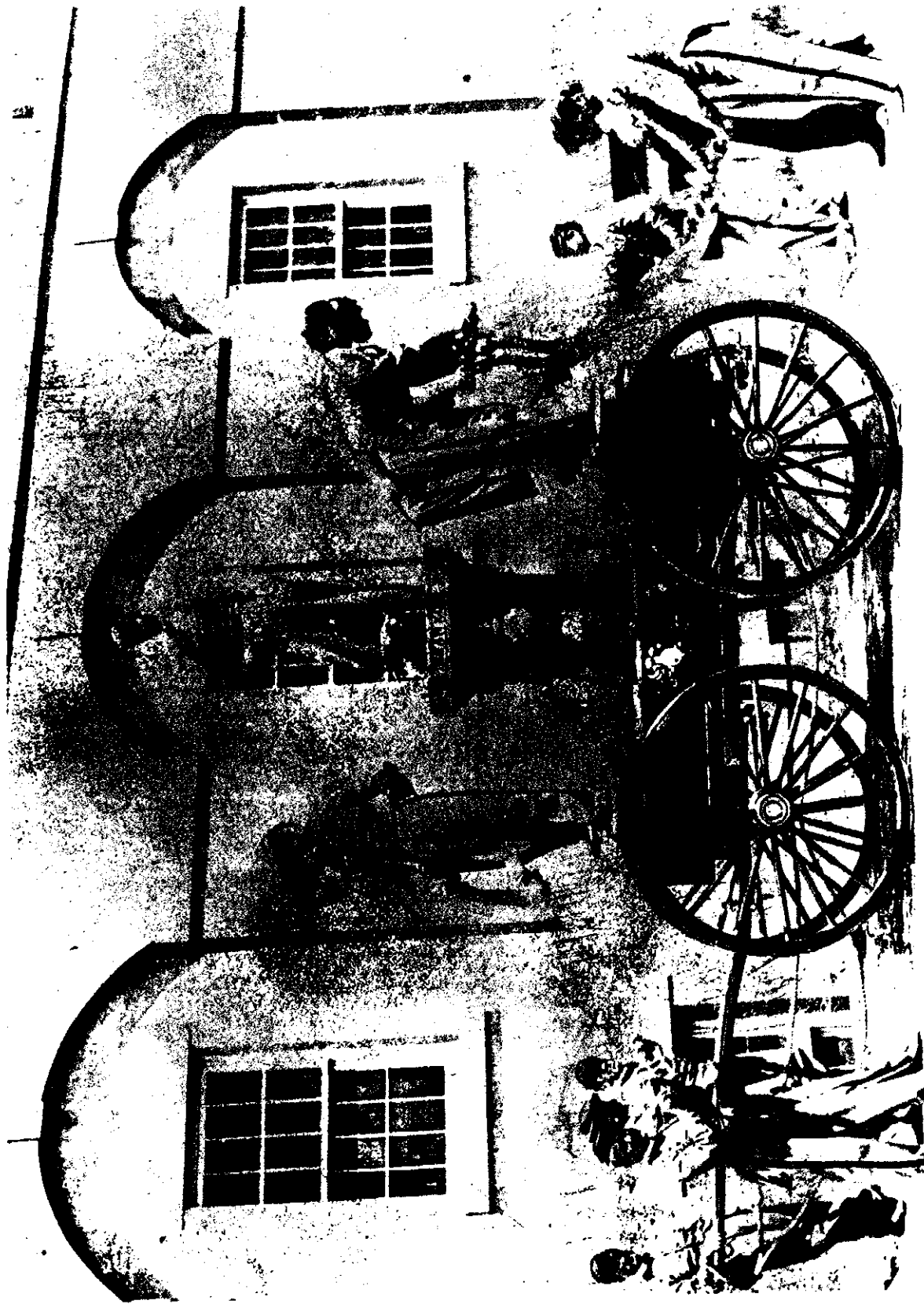
USMA Archives



37. The Commandant reviewing the swearing-in of cadets from the balcony of the Commandant's Office. To the left of the Commandant's Office are two buildings known as the "cadet sinks." These bathroom and shower facilities were erected around the 1880s. All three buildings were demolished by 1920.

ca. 1913

USMA Archives



38. Cadets posing with a fire engine outside the old Academic Building.

ca. 1860

USMA Archives

the horses down wind of the major buildings (illustration #39 & 40). The riding hall, spanned by a single curved roof, was considered the largest single building for equestrian exercise in the United States.²¹ Not until 1892 was a Cavalry Barracks built to join this group.

In 1856, on the northwestern edge of the Plain between the Commandant's Quarters and the east end of Professors Row, a fine example of a Gothic Revival cottage (#102) was built. Letters indicate that this quarters was designed with the option of using it for one senior officer or two junior officers.²² Despite suspicions, and perhaps wishful thinking, that a major architect such as A. J. Davis might have designed this cottage, the "designer" according to the original plans is Lt. Q. A. Gillmore, Corps of Engineers. (See HABS No. NY-5708-3 for a detailed description and history.)

Post Civil War

After the Civil War, the Academy stood at a high point in demonstrating the value of its achievements to the country. By this time, West Point graduates had proven their skills in the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and the Civil War. While the Civil War has been described as being fought brother against brother, for West Pointers it was often graduate against graduate. In addition to fulfilling their role as military leaders, West Point graduates of this period played an important role in the nation's internal improvements which fostered expansion in commerce and settlement in the United States. Long one of the only institutions in this country offering training in Engineering, West Point played a vital role in this nation's advancement by training the men who would design the roads, bridges, canals, and railroads necessary for the westward expansion and internal improvements experienced during the mid-19th century. Even after



39. The original Riding Hall was built in 1855 and located below the Plain's southeastern border. This view shows the road which led from the railroad station to the Academic area.



40. The Academic area, showing the old Central Barracks, the old Academic Building, the old Cadet Chapel, the Library, the old West Point Hotel, and the old 1850s Riding Hall and Stables.

ca. 1860

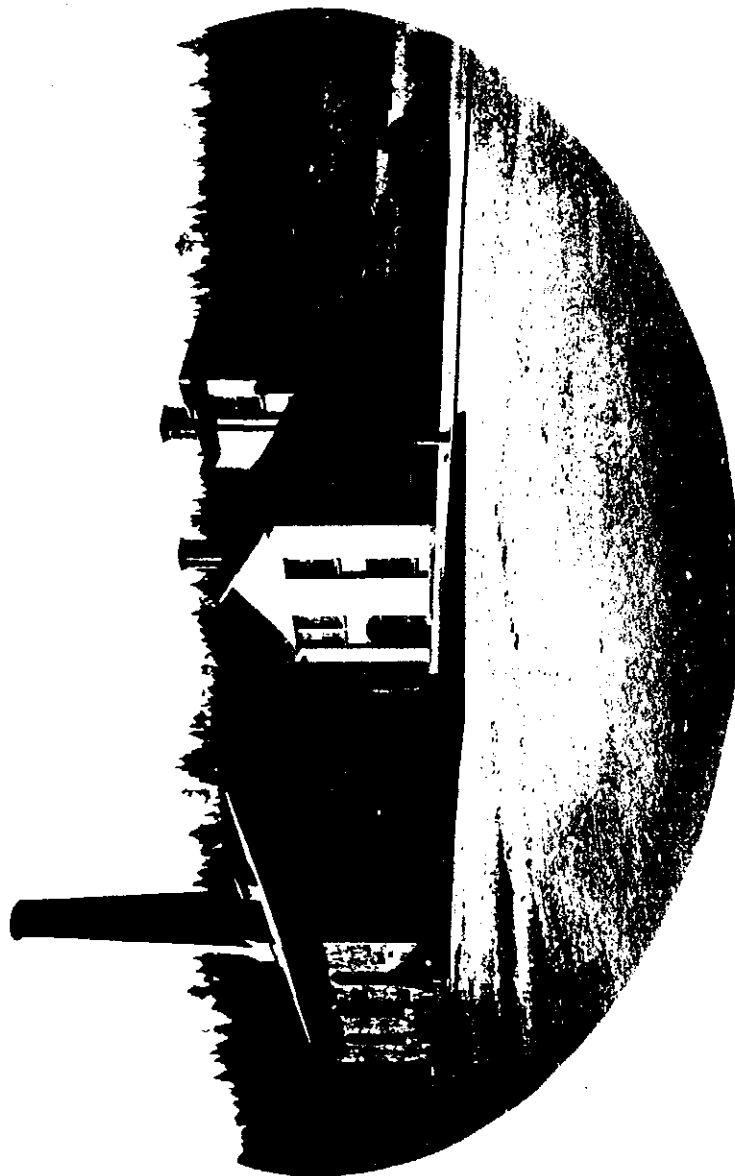
USMA Archives

the Land Grant Act of 1862, when engineers could be drawn from the many new schools being founded, the new schools were often dependent on West Point graduates to begin their engineering departments.

One of the first post-Civil War buildings erected in the Academic area was a utilitarian one. In 1867, a steam heating plant was erected behind the old cadet barracks, on part of the site presently occupied by Bradley Barracks (#756). This one-story stone building measured 45' x 38'. One year later, a stone coal shed, 126' x 28', with a capacity of 1,000 tons, was added. Records indicate that the original plant cost \$20,000 and was built by Morris Tasher & Company to heat the Academic Building and Cadet Barracks (illustration #41).²³

In addition to the many buildings built at this time, memorials to graduates of West Point became increasingly numerous. As the Academy came to have more and more famous graduates, the permission to place a monument on the Plain began to depend in large part on political influence. One memorial erected during this period was a statue dedicated on October 21, 1868, to General John Sedgwick, class of 1837 (illustration #42). Placed first on the northwestern end of the Plain, this statue was later relocated to Trophy Point. Despite the passage of time, General Sedgwick still receives the attention of the Corps of Cadets. According to Academy legend, spinning the spurs on Sedgwick's statue while in full-dress uniform at midnight, insures the cadet good luck and a passing grade on the final exam.

Stumbling along without any prevailing architectural style, as was American architecture in general, the Academy continued to construct new buildings of diverse styles during the 1870s, 1880s and 1890s. For example, in 1870, a Headquarters building was erected south of the Cadet Chapel, near the site



41. The old Steam Heating Plant beside the Commandant's Office (1867 and 1852, respectively). This view shows the Commandant's Office prior to the placement of a clock in its tower.

ca. 1870

USMA Archives



42. Memorial to Major General John Sedgwick and one of West Point's many traditions. The statue's spurs, which can spin, have long attracted the attention of cadets in need of extra luck during exam time.

ca. 1938

USMA Archives

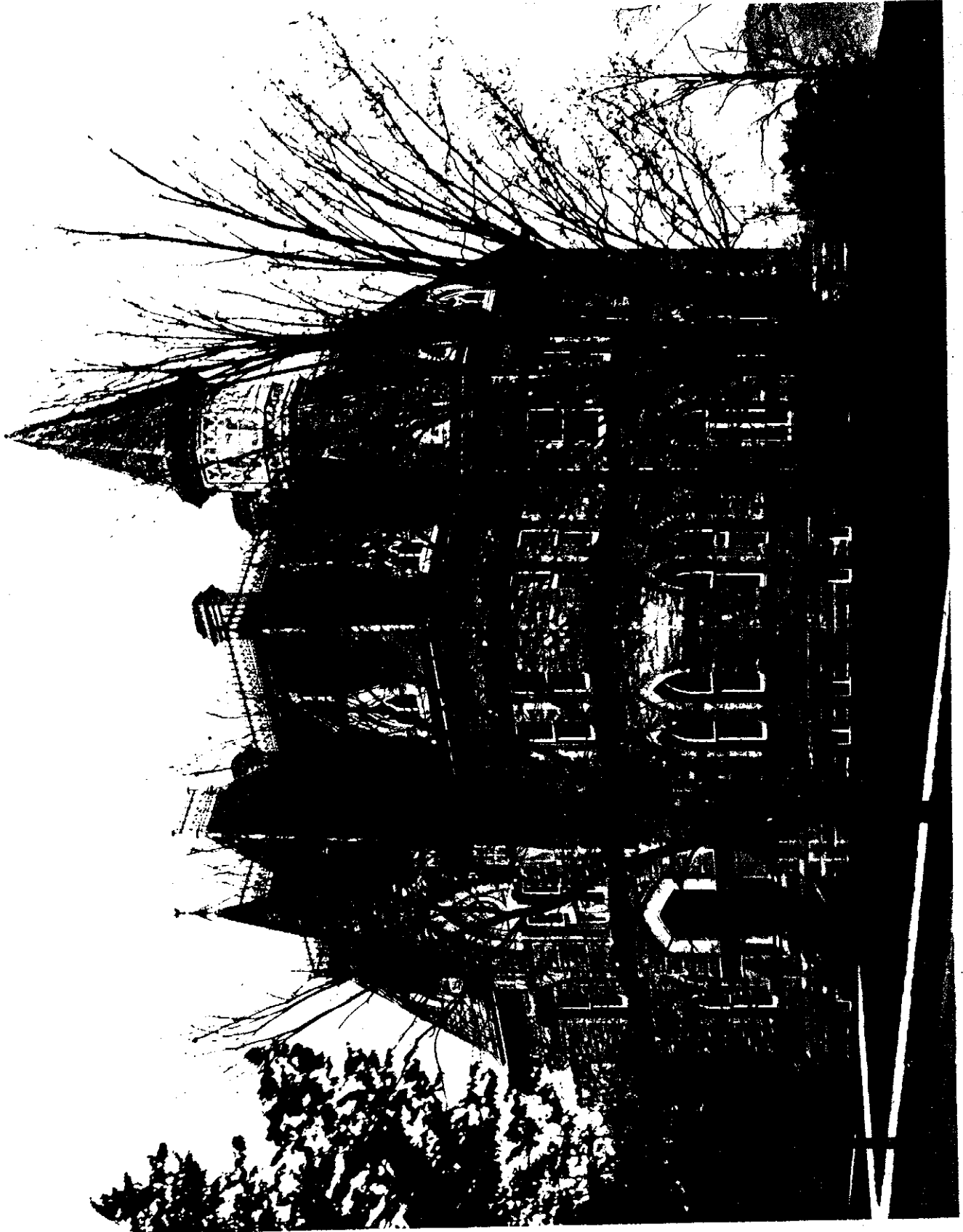
occupied by the present Headquarters (illustration #43). This three-story, plus basement, stone building of eclectic design featured a steep mansard roof with a variety of dormers, gabled pavilions, hexagonal towers, cresting and finials. Its inadequate size and eclectic design contributed to the call for its replacement after only thirty years.

The 1874 Cadet Quartermaster's Department Store, located against the hill behind Central Barracks, contrasted sharply with the decorative Headquarters Building (illustration #44). This is where the Cadets received such items as clothing and bedding (illustration #45 & 46). An ordinary three-story brick structure costing nearly \$12,000, this simple building received the addition of a mansard roof in 1880.²⁴ It was probably removed in the 1920s to make way for a new Mess Hall.

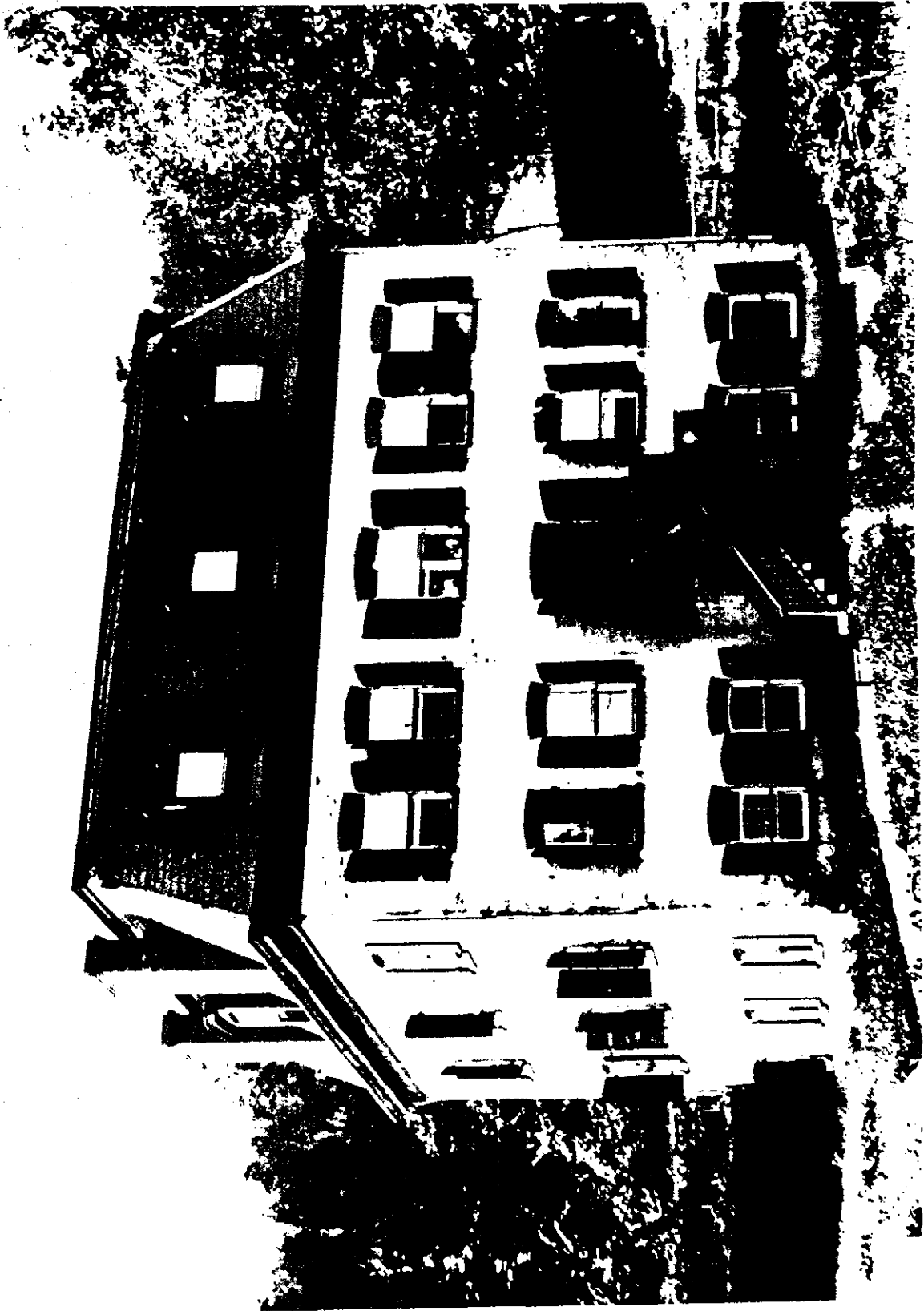
In 1875, a large brick double set of officers' quarters (#109) was constructed at the western end of Professors Row. Located with a commanding view up the Hudson, this building featured a cross-gabled roof, dormers, and a handsome front porch (illustration #47). (See HABS No. NY-5708-41 for detailed description and history.)

In 1877, a one-story brick building was erected behind one of the several quarters south of the Superintendent's Quarters. This small building, visible from the Plain, was used as a schoolhouse for officers' children, and replaced the older frame schoolhouse which was to its south (illustration #48).²⁵ The brick schoolhouse was removed at some point before the construction of North Barracks shortly after the turn of the century.

On June 11, 1883, a monument to Colonel Sylvanus Thayer, the "Father of the



43. This architecturally exuberant 1870 Headquarters Building was found inadequate in size and style after only 30 years and was razed to make way for a more satisfactory replacement.



CADET QM DEPARTMENT from 1875 - 1892.

44. Located west of the Central Barracks, the Cadet Quartermaster Building supplied the Cadets with clothing and bedding from 1874 through the 1920s. The mansard roof was added in 1880.



45. The sales counter of the Cadet Quartermaster Building.

ca. 1900

USMA Archives



46. The tailor shop located in the attic of the Cadet Quartermaster Building.

ca. 1890

USMA Archives



47. Officer's Quarters #109, which was added to the western end of Professors Row in 1875.

ca. 1880

USMA Archives



48. Set-back between two officers' quarters, south of the Superintendent's Quarters, this building served as the school for officers' children during the mid-19th century.

ca. 1870

USMA Archives

Military Academy," was dedicated. Designed by the sculptor Carl Conrad, it originally stood at the southwestern corner of the Plain and now occupies a prominent position across from the Superintendent's Quarters.

In 1884, the Cadet Hospital was relocated to a large stone building south of the Mess Hall, near the site presently occupied by Lee Barracks (#740) (illustration #49, 50, 51). A Romanesque Revival design with large round arches under a three-story polygonal entranceway, the central part of the hospital was flanked by wings. In 1923, a new wing was added, and it is this wing that remains, the original section having been demolished to make room for additional barracks during the 1960s.

Another group of buildings constructed during this period was the "Cadet Sinks" (lavatories). A stone structure, 23' x 64', and a brick structure, 30' x 10',²⁶ these buildings were built in 1863 south of the old Central Barracks (illustration #52). Despite the inconvenience caused by their distance from the barracks, their removal from the barracks basement and along the barracks exterior wall was viewed as a general improvement in sanitary conditions. By 1921, modern plumbing had become common and the cadet sinks were removed to make room for the new wing of the Central Barracks.

Architectural Experimentation

Despite a strong start in the 1840s, the architectural character of West Point was lacking in cohesion and distinction (illustration #53). Beginning in the late 1880s, a period of architectural experimentation began. The several designs produced, whether successes or failures, indicate an awareness that something needed to be done about the visual appearance of the Academy. At this time, West



57

49. Built in 1884, this Cadet Hospital took over the role of the older one built 50 years earlier. A major wing added in the 1920s gradually replaced this building. The 1884 building was finally torn down by the 1960s.

ca. 1920

USMA Archives



50. A ward room in the 1880s Cadet Hospital.

ca. 1890

USMA Archives



51. An operating room in the 1880s Cadet Hospital.

ca. 1890

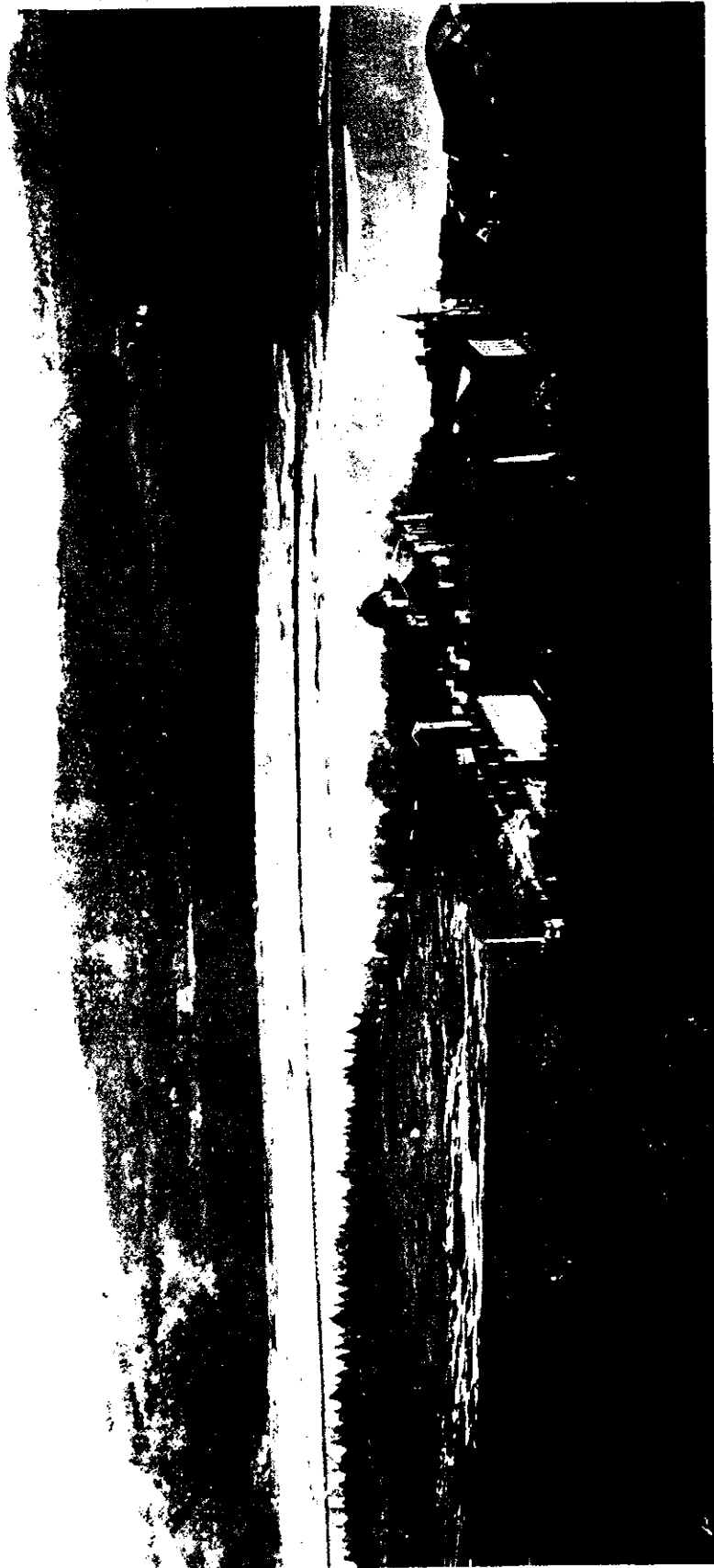
USMA Archives



52. The "Area," showing the new 1890s Academic Building designed by Richard Morris Hunt in the background, the Cadet sinks and the Commandant's Office are at right.

USMA Archives

ca. 1902



53. The academic core and the Plain, as seen from Fort Putnam. Note the ornate Headquarters Building between the Library and the Riding Hall.

ca. 1880

USMA Archives

Point sought the assistance of a few of the most prominent architects in the country. Chief among those were Richard Morris Hunt and the firm of McKim, Mead and White.

The need to establish some architectural distinction was addressed in the designs of a new Academic Building and a Gymnasium/Fencing Academy Building, both by Richard Morris Hunt.²⁷ A plan was devised whereby the new Gym would be begun west of the Central Barracks. This way, the old Academy could be torn down, a new one built on the same site, and the cadets could take their lessons in the new Gym during the construction of the new Academy Buildings.²⁸ As often happens this plan was interrupted by numerous disputes.

Richard Morris Hunt was selected to design both buildings. For the Gymnasium, he planned a handsome Romanesque Revival design with two front towers and a grand arched entranceway. For the Academic Building (#751) he created an 1890s interpretation of the type of Military Gothic which had been built earlier at West Point. Utilizing a lighter colored stone than had been used before, his design borrowed details from the old Mess Hall to the south, the old Library to the east and the Central Barracks to the west. (See HABS No. NY-5708-15 for detailed description and history.)

One interesting aspect of his design concerns the clock tower for the northeast corner of the Academic Building. As planned, the clock tower was to contain the 1857 clock which had stood in the tower of the old Academic Building. Records indicate that Professor Michie was ordered to remove the clock between June 15 and 20, 1891, and store it in his lecture room until a nine foot wooden extension tower could be built on the northwestern tower of the old Library.²⁹ A photograph shows the clock in the temporary library tower, and another shows the

67

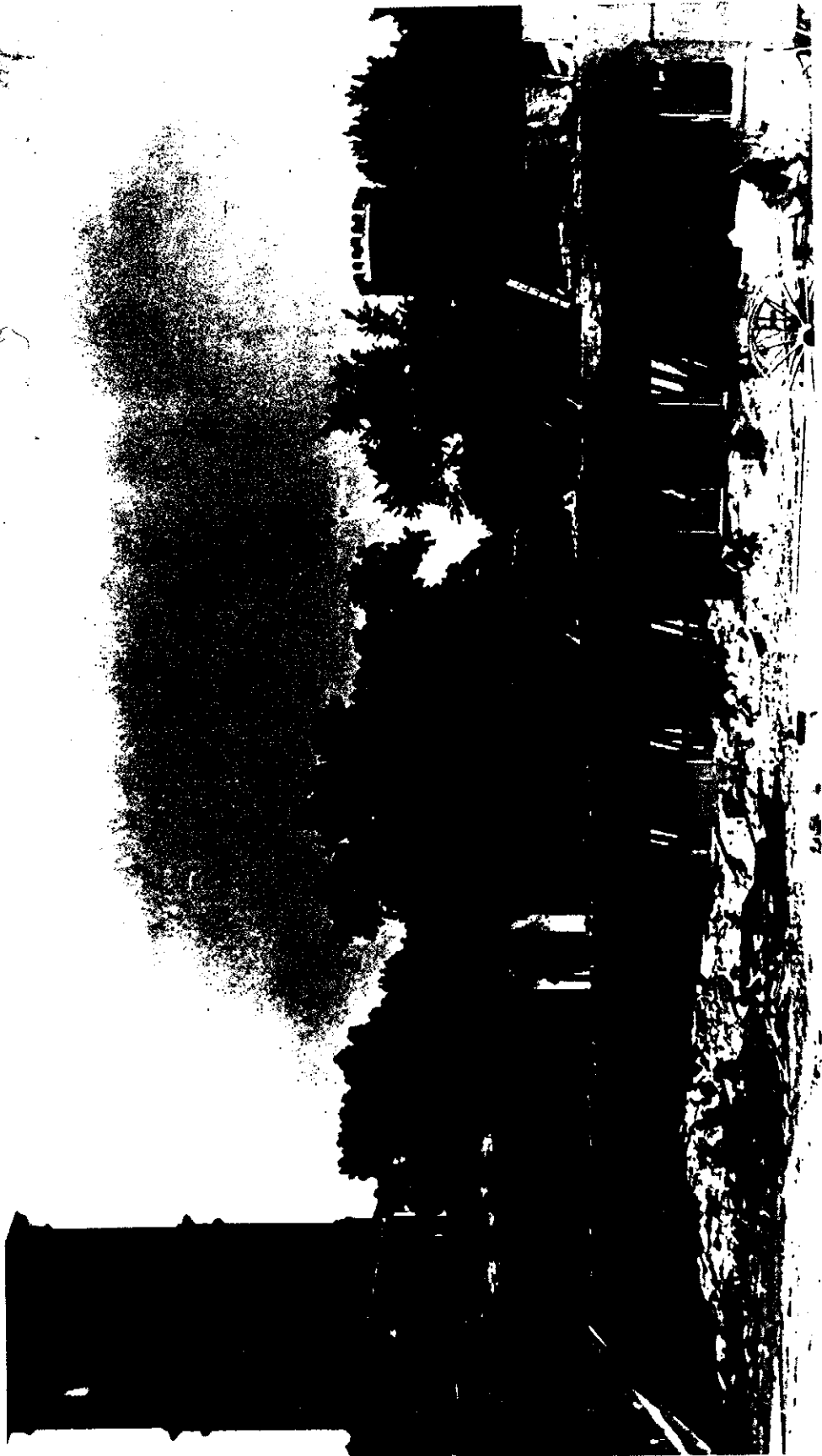
Academic Building tower completed, without the clock; yet at some undetermined date the clock was installed in the new building, where it remains today, a prominent landmark seen from most of the Academic area (illustration #54).

Construction of the gymnasium began in 1891, under the contractor, John Sheehan of New Rochelle. After one year on the job, Sheehan abandoned the project stating that he could no longer work with Mr. Hunt.³⁰ His resignation resulted after several heated disputes, culminating in a debate over the quality of a stone lintel. Another contract was entered into with John Moore, who completed the building in time for it to be occupied on November 1, 1893 (illustration #55).³¹ The Hunt building stood until the early 1920s, when it was demolished to make room for the new Mess Hall (#745).

Meanwhile, the Academic Building continued to rise, despite any apprehension officials at West Point might have had after discovering over \$7,000 in incorrect additions in Hunt's cost estimate.³² The contractor, J. E. and A. Pennoch, had the building nearly completed by January, 1895, when it was occupied.³³

At about the same time that Hunt was battling with contractors and miscalculating figures, the firm of McKim, Mead and White became involved in several projects at West Point.

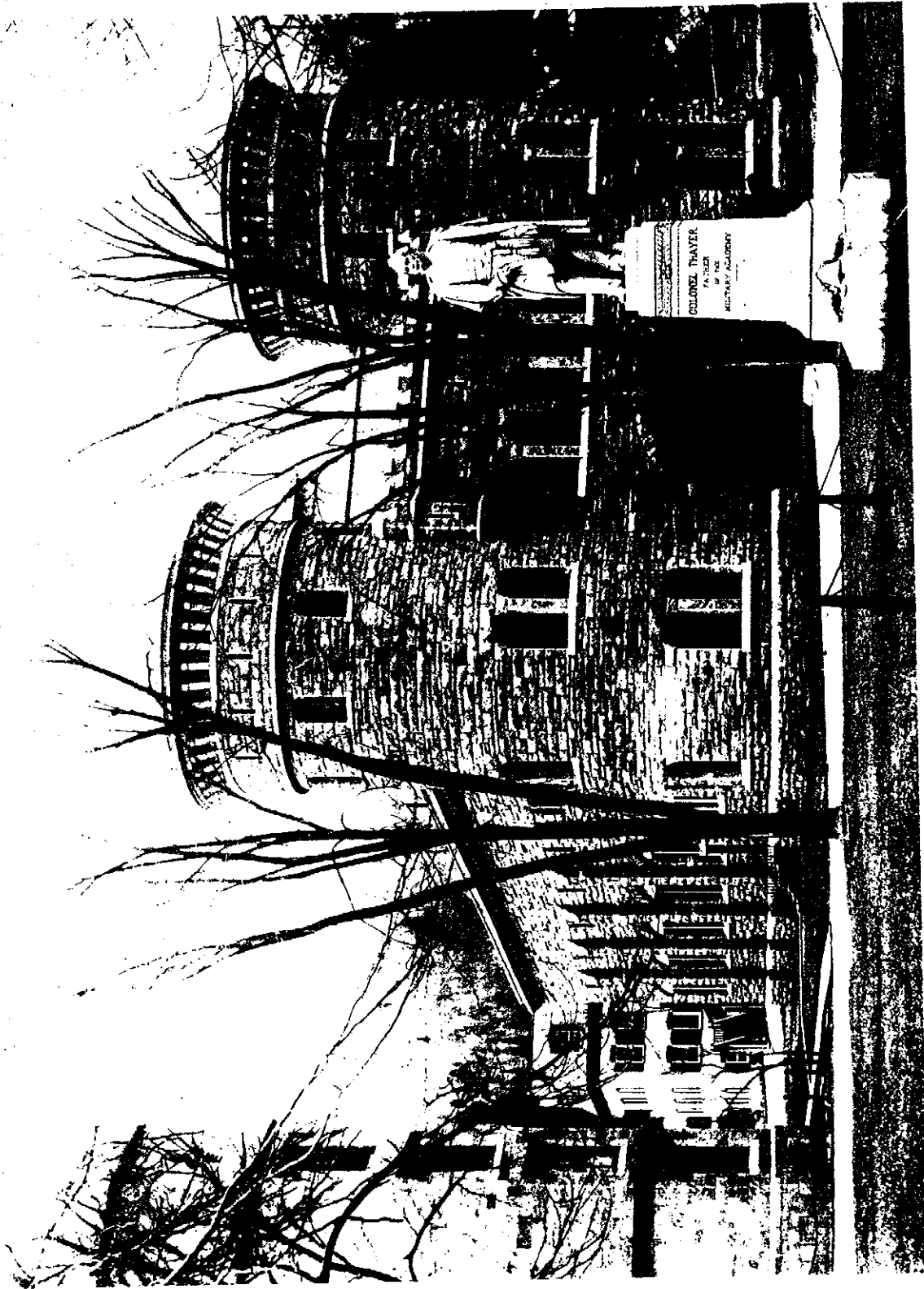
Their first project at West Point was the Battle Monument. Beginning shortly after the Civil War, a drive was begun to erect a monument to the soldiers of the Regular Army who died fighting to preserve the Union. It was not until the early 1890s that the project progressed to the point where a panel of judges, including



54. The demolition of the old Academic Building. Notice the clock has been removed from the clock tower at left and installed in a tower addition on the Library, at right.

August 1891

USMA Archives



55. The 1890s Gymnasium and Fencing Academy. Designed by Richard Morris Hunt,
this building was demolished after only a few decades.

ca. 1900

USMA Archives

Richard Morris Hunt and Augustus Saint-Gaudens, selected the winning design by McKim, Mead and White. Among their competitors for the project was the firm of Carrere and Hastings.³⁴

The winning design featured a figure of Victory (or Fame, as it was later called) atop a monolithic shaft of polished granite, around which were several large polished granite spheres. Today the Battle Monument is one of the most prominent features at West Point. Research into the history of the monument produced a number of little-known pieces of information, which contribute to the interest of the monument.

First of all, in 1894, only months after it was installed, the figure of Victory was removed from the monument.³⁵ The sculptor, Frederick MacMonnies, agreed to replace the figure which was criticized as too large and awkward in appearance (illustration #56).³⁶ The new figure of Fame was not put in place until May 1896 (illustration #57). The suggestion by the architects to locate the original figure in the new Memorial Hall was never carried out.³⁷

Another problem which was encountered involved the bronze bands circling the granite globes. Correspondences indicate that there was a debate on whether or not to treat the new bronze to prematurely create an antique finish. The correspondence states that this was tested and approved at one point, yet the process was later stopped.³⁸

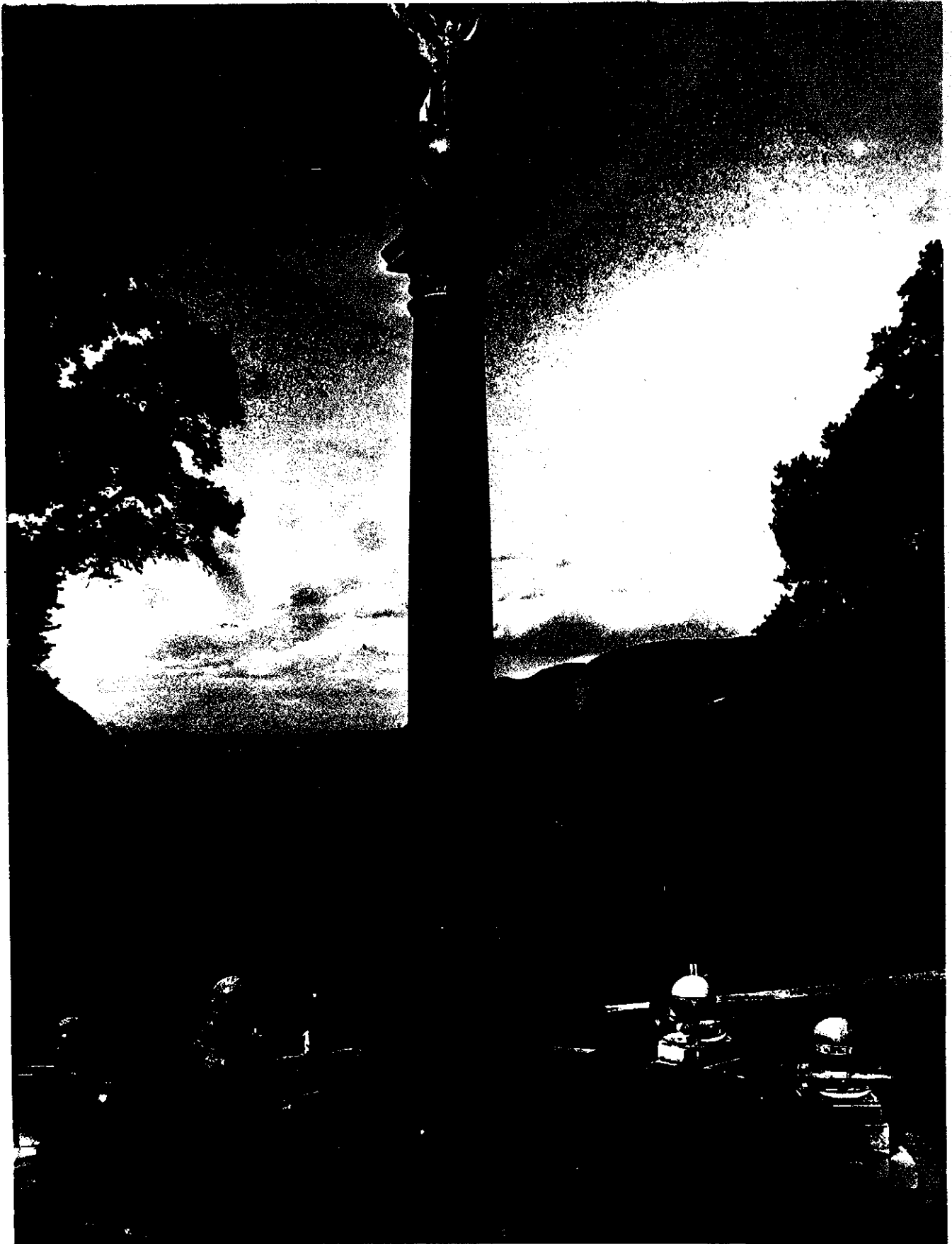
Nature also took its toll on the monument. In June, 1895, a lightning storm, which destroyed the post flagstaff, also knocked off a piece of the molding at the top of the monument shaft.³⁹ Another incident, which occurred a few years after the monument was completed, is reflected in a letter of May 1901, from the



56. The Battle Monument at Trophy Point. The shaft and base were designed by McKim, Mead and White. The figure of Fame by Frederick MacMonnies, deemed too awkward in appearance was replaced with another soon after this picture was taken.

ca. 1894

USMA Archives



57. The Battle Monument, as it appears with the more graceful replacement statue.

1951

USMA Archives

Superintendent.⁴⁰ The Superintendent was seeking any advice that the architects might offer regarding a problem created by strong winds blowing down the Hudson. The Superintendent explained that the figure of Fame, originally facing southeast, had been blown to face due east. It seems the idea of a weather vane atop the monument was not in the architects' original plan.

McKim, Mead and White also designed Cullum Memorial Hall (#605) which was built through funds donated by General George W. Cullum, the initiator of the Alumni Biographical Register. Situated on the eastern edge of the Plain, Cullum Hall's use of light-colored granite in a Classical design represented a dramatic departure both in building material and style from all that previously had been built at West Point. In addition, the location of the building broke the long-standing tradition of keeping open the eastern vista from the Plain. Designed in 1894 and completed in 1898, the building was not furnished and dedicated until June, 1900. (See HABS No. NY-5708-42 for detailed description and history.)

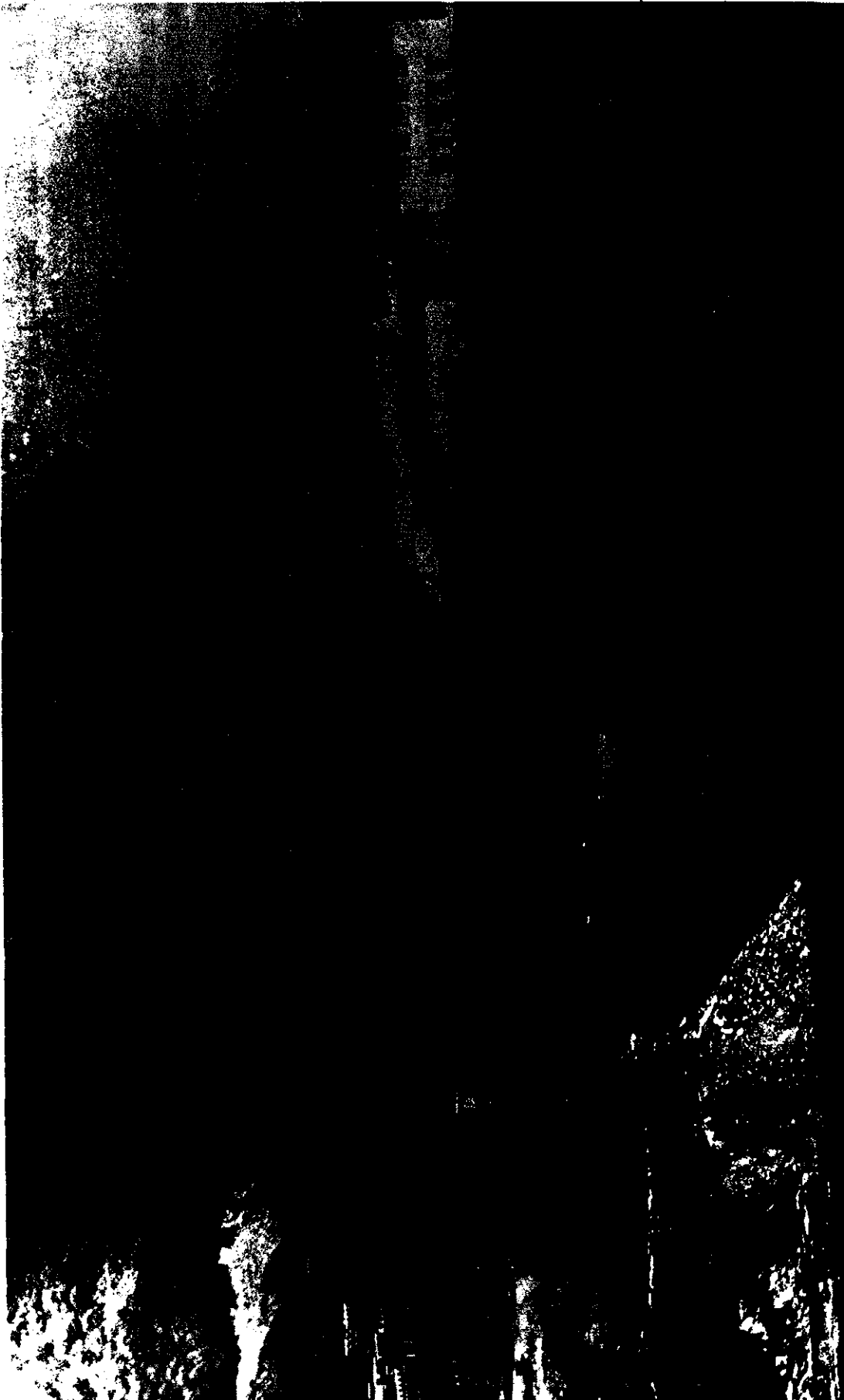
This same firm also designed another Neo-Classical building, the Officers Club (#603), located directly south of Cullum Hall. Completed in 1903, this toned-down version of its neighbor to the north was a victim of budget cuts. Whether due to the high cost of granite, or a loss of enthusiasm for the Neo-Classical, the funding for the Officers Club was less than the architects had expected. In fact, the firm was warned that if they did not bring their cost estimates down they would lose the contract.⁴¹ Not until costs were brought down and "mottle-colored brick" was selected to replace granite as the building material did the pressure from Academy officials was ease-up. This marginal design has been further diminished by the recent addition on the river side of a multi-story, yellow brick, semi-circular dining section.

These two experiments in Neo-Classical design at West Point failed to excite the public. An article in the New York World in May 1895, describes the design for Cullum Hall as "squat and ugly."⁴² Despite the interest which this prominent architectural firm had shown in West Point, their work did not fire the imagination of the public or the USMA leadership. Had their designs shown more promise, it is possible that West Point would have jumped on the Neo-Classical bandwagon, as did the U.S. Naval Academy at about the same time. As it turned out, however, the authority of the Military Gothic style at West Point was never put to the test by Neo-Classical designs of higher quality.

The period of architectural experimentation would soon be over. Gothic Revival cottages, eclectic Administration Buildings, Romanesque Revival Gymnasiums, and Neo-Classical Halls seemed only to magnify the importance of the long buried preference for the one style which was begun during Delafield's Superintendency. West Point at the turn of the century was a confusion of styles, and the time was right for a comprehensive plan. Suffering for a half century without a consistent or distinctive architectural identity, West Point would have its chance to reclaim its architectural identity in 1903 (illustration #58).

The 1903 Architectural Competition

The turn of the century was marked by the single greatest expansion and construction program ever undertaken at West Point. In order to understand how the approval of such a major expansion program was accomplished, it is necessary to place it in context with the events leading up to 1903. First, the American military had recently returned from a successful show of force in the Spanish-American War, with West Point graduates receiving their share of the credit. With heightened imperialistic tendencies, the U.S. Government had decided to



58. The Academic area at the beginning of the Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson period. Buildings shown include: (left to right) the Academic Building, the old Headquarters, the Heating Plant (under construction), the old Riding Hall and Stables, the old Library, the Cavalry Barracks (1892), the Officers Club (1903), Cullum Hall (1898), and the old Hotel.

impress the world with its military might by sending a "Great White Fleet" around the globe. Secondly, a widely circulated report of the Board of Visitors in 1901 presented a scathing criticism of the inadequate facilities at West Point.⁴³ Finally, 1902 would mark the Centennial of the birth of the USMA, creating a heightened awareness of West Point's role in American history.

Undoubtedly these factors contributed to the June 28, 1902, Act of Congress appropriating \$6,500,000 (shortly thereafter increased to \$7,500,000) for a general enlargement of the facilities at West Point. Professor of Drawing, Col. Charles W. Larned, had periodically circulated a report since the 1880s, which claimed that the decades of haphazard growth had brought the Academy to a point where long-term efficiency could only be achieved through a major rebuilding.⁴⁴

On October 20, 1902, Superintendent Albert L. Mills sent an invitation to ten architectural firms to participate in a limited architectural competition.⁴⁵ The following firms were invited: Cope and Stewardson; Hines and LaFarge; Carrere and Hastings; Peabody and Stearns; Armes and Young; Charles C. Haight; Daniel H. Burnham; Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson; McKim, Mead and White; and Frost and Granger. The architects were advised that the following buildings were to be designed: Cadet Barracks; Academic Building; Chapel; Post Headquarters; Headquarters for Corps of Cadets; Bachelor Officers' Quarters; Riding Hall; Artillery Barracks, Stable and Gun Shed; Cavalry Barracks and Stable; Hotel; and others. Additional instructions provided requirements for the winning design. First, "It must afford opportunity for future extension and enlargement as the institution shall be enlarged with the growth of the country." Second, "It must locate the buildings habitually occupied by the cadets so conveniently near each other as to meet the requirements of efficient administration and supervision,

health, comfort and economy of time." Third, "It must maintain undiminished the present plain or campus for infantry instruction." Fourth, "It must produce a general result in harmony with a number of the present buildings, which are to be retained, such as the cadet barracks, the academic building, the library, the cadet mess, the cadet hospital, the gymnasium, the memorial hall and the officers' mess." And finally, "It must be capable of execution at such a cost that the entire work...will not cost more than \$5,000,000..."

To a great extent, these directions were adhered to, contributing to the physical appearance of the Academic area. The winning architects' compliance with these instructions insured the continued utilization of this area as the core area for all facets of academic life, the preservation of an open Plain, and the harmony which 20th-century buildings have with the successful 19th-century designs which epitomize West Point architecture.

On May 22, 1903, a jury made up of Lt. Gen. John Schofield (former Superintendent), Col. Albert L. Mills (Superintendent) and architects George B. Post, Walter Cook and Cass Gilbert met and selected the Gothic plan of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson.⁴⁶ The selection of a Gothic scheme caused consternation among a few of the competing architects. According to architectural critic, Montgomery Schuyler, writing in 1903, a few of the architects thought they had been misled in understanding that they were free to present their own views on architectural style.⁴⁷ This criticism stemmed from the belief by some of the disgruntled architects that at no time was a style other than Gothic Revival considered. This suspicion led to the complaint that those architects known by their work in styles other than Gothic were being used to create the appearance of an open competition, when, in reality, their designs would never be given full

consideration. Unfortunately, any evaluation of the various design schemes is limited, because, as promised in the invitation, all submitted designs were returned to the unsuccessful competitors after the winner was selected.

The winning firm exercised their option of associating itself with a landscape architect. The laying out of walkways and the placement of trees was planned by the firm of the Olmsted Brothers, who completed their work by 1912.⁴⁸

Although Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson submitted a detailed plan for the improvements at West Point, certain design solutions needed to be worked out. Towards this goal, an Advisory Council, made up of members of the Academic Board, was appointed to assist the Superintendent in ruling on many of the decisions required to turn the architects' plans into reality.

One such example involves the Bachelor Officers' Quarters (B.O.Q.) (#149). The design scheme selected for the "New West Point" was one which would bring back the Gothic Revival style. However, during the ten years preceding the competition of 1903, a period of architectural experimentation had taken place, and the proposed site for the new B.O.Q. was north of the Neo-Classical Cullum Hall and Officers' Club. The Advisory Board was concerned with constructing new buildings in the approved style while maintaining aesthetic harmony with the existing Neo-Classical structures. One design solution would be to create a third Neo-Classical building, forming a small group of similar buildings. The other option, which the Board later recommended, was to design the new building in the Gothic Revival style, and to erect a new facade on the Officers' Club, both to be similar to the proposed Riding Hall. The Advisory Council's recommendation, which was never carried out, was for the Neo-Classical Cullum Hall to be flanked by buildings in the Gothic Revival style of the new West

Point.⁴⁹ In fact, what was done was the construction of a building which attempts to combine Gothic and Classical features, demonstrating that compromise is not always the best way to select a building design.

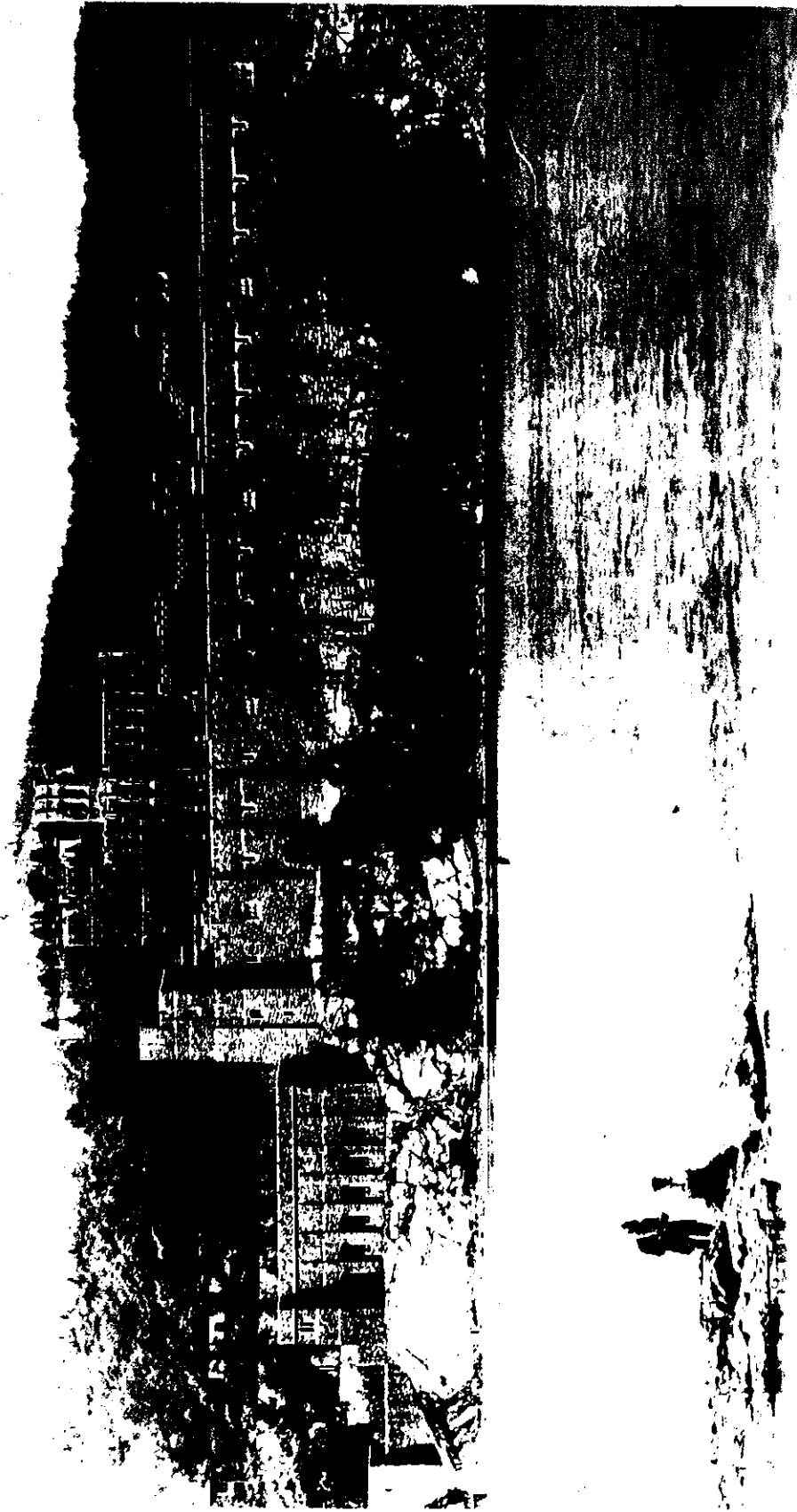
The Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson plan for the Academic area was to create a "New West Point," yet today this area includes only seven of their designs (additional buildings designed by them exist elsewhere on post), including: The Riding Hall, Heating Plant, Headquarters, Bartlett Hall, Chapel, B.O.Q., and Gymnasium. Although seven buildings make up only about one third of all the buildings in this zone, the architectural appearance of the Academic area is dominated by the work of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson. In fact, all the major buildings erected in this area since the '03 Competition have, to varying degrees, paid homage to the style, scale and massing instituted by this firm.

At the eastern edge of this zone is the Heating Plant (#604) and the Riding Hall (#601), two Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson designs completed in 1909 (illustration #59). The success of these designs cannot be overstated. Due to impressive massing and coloring of the stone walls, these buildings appear to grow out of the cliffs when viewed from the river (illustration #60). The Heating Plant continued to serve its original function, despite periodic updating of equipment. The Riding Hall was converted into an academic building in 1958, receiving four interior levels and two additional entrances on its west side. (See HABS No. NY-5708-23 and NY-57-8-24 for detailed description and history.)

Along Thayer Road, in the center of the Academic area, are two more of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson's designs. The impressive stone Headquarters (#600) features a prominent tower which is visible from the Plain, the river, and most



59. An interior view of the new Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson designed Riding Hall (1909).



60. The "New West Point," featuring the Heating Plant (1909), Riding Hall, Headquarters (1909), and Chapel (1910), all of which were products of the 1903 design competition won by Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson.

ca. 1911

USMA Archives

of the Academic area (illustration #61). The Headquarters also features interesting architectural embellishments by Lee Lawrie and a buttress tower along its east side. (See HABS No. NY-5708-22 for detailed description and history.) To the north of the headquarters building, along the Plain's southern boundary, is Bartlett Hall (#753). These two buildings were built in 1909 and 1914, respectively. In 1938, Bartlett Hall received an east wing addition which was designed by Paul P. Cret. (See HABS No. NY-5708-25 for detailed description and history.)

The original section of the Cadet Gymnasium (#727), built in 1910, was also designed by Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson. Located west of the Superintendent's Quarters, the gym has a buff-colored brick exterior. A series of additions have enlarged the size of the gym, these include: a 1935 Quartermaster-designed side wing; a 1938 Paul Cret rear wing; a 1938 Paul Cret rear wing; another rear wing in 1946; a 1967 side wing; and a 1975 rear wing. (See HABS No. NY-5708-43 for detailed description and history.)

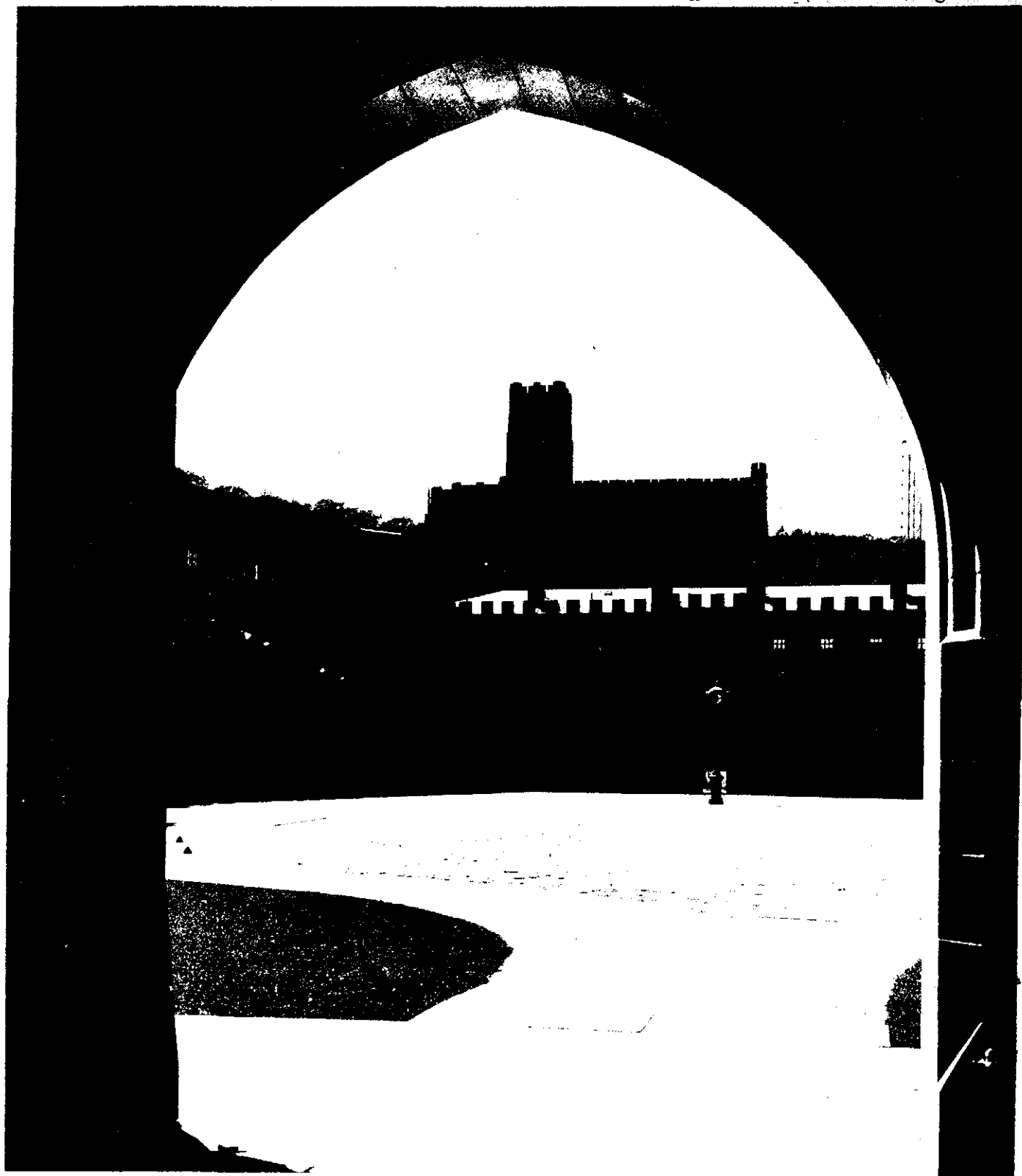
The crown of the 1903 design is the Cadet Chapel (#722), completed in 1910. Situated high above the Plain, the Chapel is visible from most places in the Academic area (illustration #62). Properly suited to the Gothic Revival style, it dominates the entire Academic area, but also remains sensitive to its setting, seeming to rise from the natural stone formations of the cliffs (illustration #63). This natural appearance was possible because the stone for the Chapel, as well as that of the Riding Hall and North Barracks, was quarried from the nearby hill behind the Superintendent's Quarters.⁵⁰ (See HABS No. NY-5708-20 and NY-5708-21 for detailed description and history.)



61. The new Headquarters Building, designed by Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson.

ca. 1935

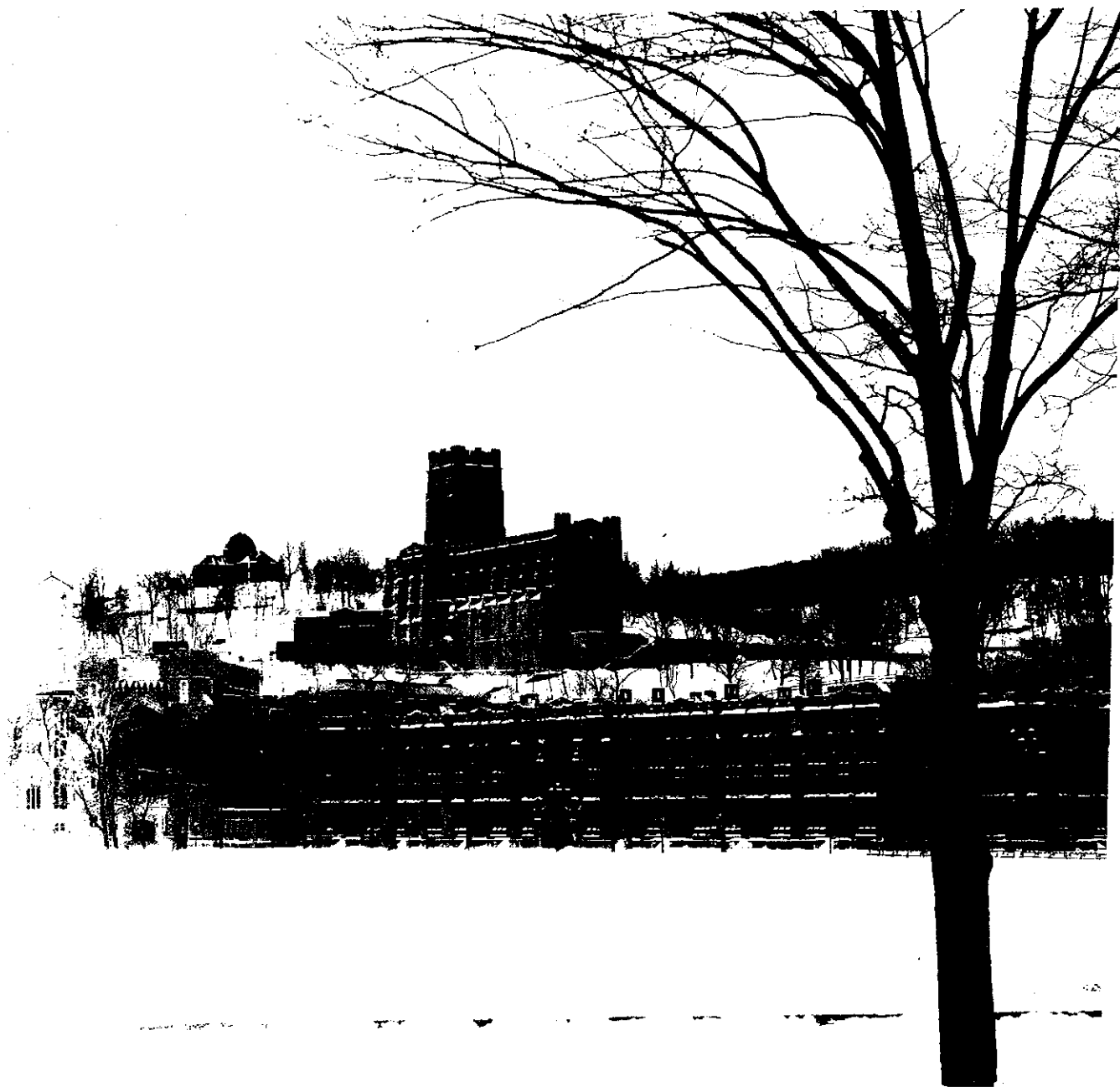
USMA Archives



62. The Old and New West Point architecture. Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson's Cadet Chapel, and Delafield's Central Barracks, as seen from a sallyport of Hunt's Academic Building.

ca. 1930

USMA Archives



63. View from Trophy Point, looking south at the 1920s Cadet Mess Hall (now obscured by an addition) the 1880s Observatory (demolished), the Cadet Chapel, and the 1900s North Barracks (demolished).

ca. 1935

USMA Archives

As relatively recent as the Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson scheme is, two of their buildings have already been demolished to make way for later expansion. The old North Barracks was located along the southwestern end of the Plain, west of where MacArthur Barracks (#745) now stands. This handsome design featured a combination of the Gothic details utilized elsewhere in the area (illustration #64). This building was torn down to make way for the 1960s MacArthur Barracks. Another building which succumbed to a similar fate was the North Cadet Guard House, built around 1909. Located to the rear of the North Barracks, near the present site of Scott Barracks, this building, which reflected the architectural characteristics of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson designs, was torn down when Scott Barracks was built in 1938 (illustration #65).

The success of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson's plan for the Academic area is due, in part, to external circumstances existing prior to the 1903 competition and to the cooperation of architects and planners of later decades. Imperialistic fervor had reached a peak following the military successes of the Spanish-American War, and, by the turn of the century, public opinion had been primed for a significant expenditure on a building program at the Military Academy. Concomitantly, the desire to impress the world with United States military prowess had become a demonstrated part of national policy. Another important factor was the presence of a large pool of talented architects during this high point of architectural professionalism. One additional factor was the availability of architects disposed to the utilize the Gothic Revival style despite the wave of popular preference for Neo-Classical treatments. The selection of the Gothic Revival style for the expansion of West Point served as a reaffirmation of the precedent established by the successful 19th-century buildings in that style. Thus, by 1903, there existed the necessary ingredients to produce these rich Gothic Revival elements: the motivation; the talent; and the aesthetic values.



64. North Barracks, designed by Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson. It was demolished to make way for MacArthur Barracks in the 1960s.

ca. 1938

USMA Archives



65. The rear wing of the Cadet Mess Hall, the Chapel, and the 1909 Cadet Guard House by Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson which was demolished by 1960.

ca. 1930

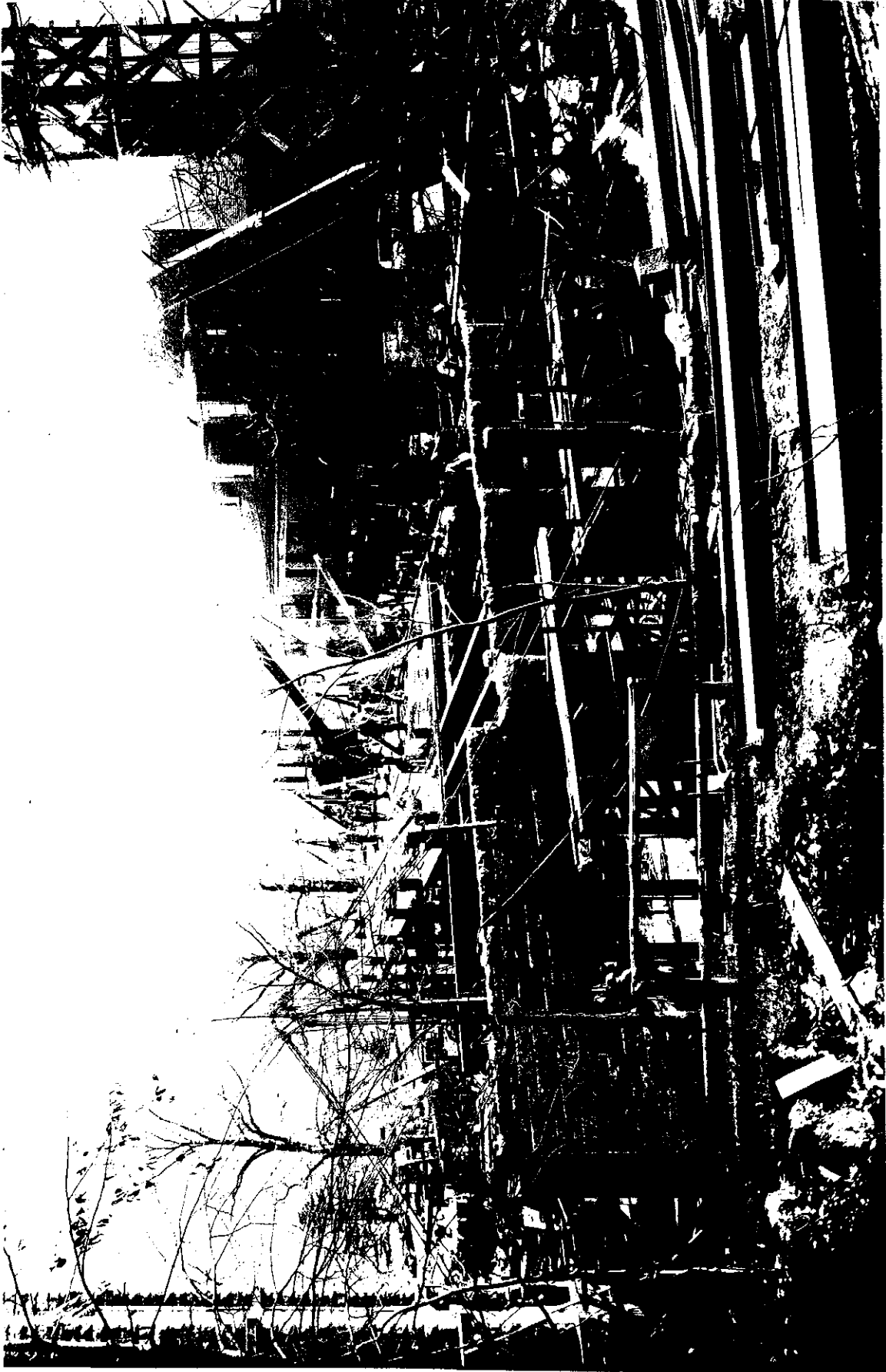
USMA Archives

Additional building programs would occur in the following decades uninfluenced by these factors. Buildings would be added to the Academic area which were stripped of the type of ornamentation which had by then grown out of favor stylistically and economically. Yet, Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson had provided such a strong framework for the continuance of the Gothic Revival style that later architects had little choice but to design their buildings in harmony with that style, while providing variations of modern interpretation.

Continued Expansion

During the 1920s, only two major buildings were erected in the Academic area, both designed by Arnold W. Brunner. The first building was a 1923 addition to the 1884 Cadet Hospital (illustration #66). Today, only the 1923 wing (#606) remains (illustration #67). The old Cadet Hospital was torn down to make room for Lee and Sherman Barracks (#740 & 738) in 1962, which were designed by O'Connor and Kilham. The other 1920s design was the original part of the Mess Hall (part of #745), begun in 1925 (illustration #68) and completed by 1929. One point of interest concerning the Mess Hall is that the firm of Cram and Ferguson (Goodhue having left the firm) had hoped to get the contract for designing the building. It seems that a \$22,000 overpayment to the firm, which had not yet been resolved from their earlier work at West Point, left a bitter taste in the mouth of West Point officials responsible for selecting architects. The firm's offer to deduct the \$22,000 from their fee for the Mess Hall was rejected as a scheme to "blackmail" the Academy into awarding them the contract. Instead, the contract was awarded to Brunner.⁵¹

The 1930s witnessed an expansion in the size of the Cadet Corps by about fifty percent. Such an increase could not take place without a facility expansion



66. The new Cadet Hospital under construction in 1921. Facing east, this view also shows the corner of the 1880s hospital at left, and a building at right which, built at an unknown date, served as a barracks for the female nurses who arrived for service at the Cadet Hospital in 1917. This barracks was removed at some point after the mid-1930s.



67. The 1920s wing of the Cadet Hospital facing Thayer Road. A fourth floor was later added.

ca. 1930

USMA Archives

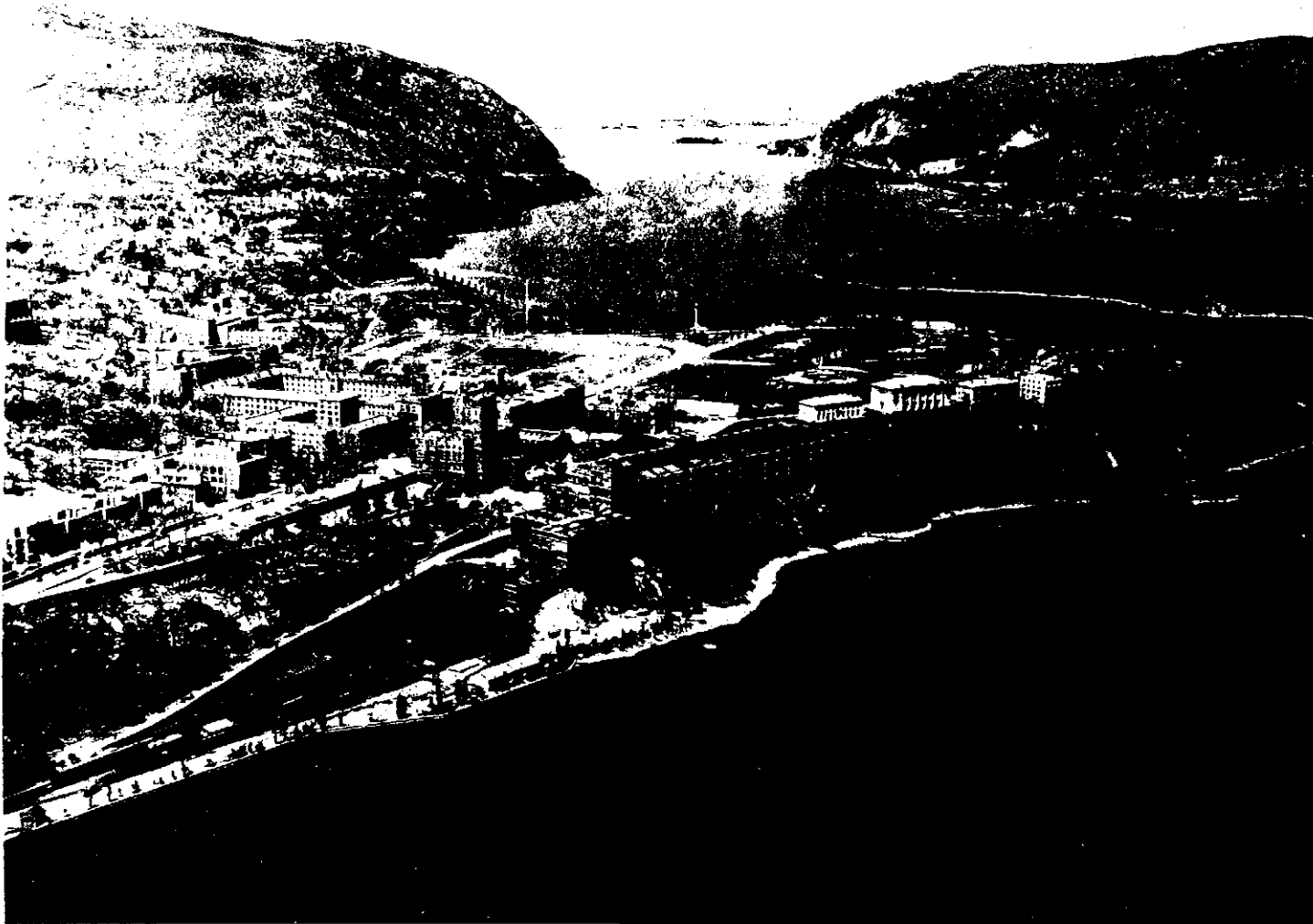


68. The Cadet Mess Hall designed by Arnold W. Brunner in the 1920s. This facade is now visible only from the interior of the Washington Hall addition of the 1960s. A statue of the "Father of West Point," Sylvanus Thayer is at center, and the northwest tower of the 1850s Central Barracks is seen at left.

program, because any increase in the size of the Cadet Corps has a multiplier effect upon the stress placed on the facilities. In addition to the increased demand for barracks, more students demand more professors, who in turn demand additional quarters. Facilities such as the Mess Hall, the laundry, and the Gymnasium all felt the added stress of the increase in cadets (illustration #69 & 70).

In 1931, a new Barracks and Visitor's Reception Lounge, Grant Hall (#602), was placed on the site of the 1850s Mess Hall, south of Hunt's Academic Building. This building was designed by Gehron and Ross, who had worked with Brunner on the new Mess Hall. (See HABS No. NY-5708-26 for detailed description and history.) In 1938, Scott Barracks (#735), designed by Paul P. Cret, was erected behind the old North Barracks (illustration #71). A Mess Attendants' Building (#720), designed by York and Sawyer, was built near the Mess Hall in 1939. Except for the Mess Attendants' Building, these buildings were faced with granite. Although steel frame construction negated the need for such load bearing walls, the use of granite at West Point continued whenever feasible and provided continuity between the older and the newer buildings. In the exceptions, such as the Mess Attendants' Building, buff colored brick was used. Usually when such brick was used it was in the case of a building out of direct view from major areas, such as this one, or the material was used in a courtyard or rear wall area.

By the early 1940s, it was realized that the increase in the authorized limit of the Corps of Cadets to nearly 2,500 called for further expansion with more direction than the expansion of the 1930s. In 1944 another limited architectural competition was held. This time, the plan was to erect two sets of barracks, an Academic Building, an Auditorium, a Memorial Hall, Nurses Quarters, and an addition to the Cadet Mess Hall. Once again, ten firms submitted plans. Listed



69. An aerial view of the Academy during the early 1930s, looking north.

ca. 1933

USMA Archives



70. An aerial view of the Academy during the 1930s, looking south.
ca. 1933

USMA Archives



71. A 1930s adaptation of Military Gothic, Scott Barracks was designed by Paul P. Cret.

ca. 1938

USMA Archives

in order of selection by the competition jury, the firms were: Delano and Aldrich; Shreve, Lamb, and Harmon; Alfred Hopkins, Assoc.; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; Coolidge, Shepley, Bulfinch and Abbot; Cram and Ferguson; Paul P. Cret; William Gehron; Holabird and Root; and Voorhees, Walker, Foley and Smith.⁵²

Probably because of wartime constraints, the proposed construction called for in this competition was never carried out, although the expansion which occurred in the 1950s and 1960s appears to have taken into consideration the plans of the winning firm, Delano and Aldrich.

During the next three decades, West Point continued to expand. During the 1950s, after the American people were told by West Point graduate Douglas MacArthur that, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away," some of West Point's oldest buildings were fading away behind the dust caused by the crash of the wrecker's ball. The need to expand led to the demolition of many of the older and more interesting buildings, including the Library and most of Central Barracks. The low priority assigned to the preservation of West Point's historic buildings is further suggested by the fact that during every decade of this century there existed at least one plan to remove the oldest building on the post, the Superintendent's Quarters. Discussion of the fate of this 1820 building went so far that in the 1940s plans were drawn, yet never carried out, for a new housing complex for the Superintendent, Commandant and Dean near Lusk Reservoir.⁵³

In 1964, Congress approved the expansion of the Cadet Corps by nearly 100% over the next decade. The pressure to expand led to not only the demolition of many historic buildings, but also initiated one other encroachment upon West Point tradition. With a potential Cadet Corps of 4,500, it was necessary to double the barracks capacity. The selected design added a large addition to the front of the Mess Hall with two long wings which would sit along several yards of the

southern boundary of the Plain, which had been free of such encroachments for over one hundred years. The Washington Hall Complex (#745), which included Eisenhower and MacArthur Barracks, was completed in 1965. In 1969, an additional wing was added at a right angle to MacArthur Barracks. Despite this encroachment on the Plain, the entire 1960s complex, designed by O'Connor and Kilham, conforms so well to the heavy stone appearance of the Academy that its massing and angular plan provides strong visual cohesion, while its shape and location strongly reinforces the historic openness of the Plain. The vertex created by the joining of the two wings in relation to the expanse of the Plain establishes one of the more successful relationships of building to landscape at West Point. (See HABS No. NY-5708-44 for detailed description and history.)

As stated earlier, the 120-year-old Library, which had stood as an example for later building designs, was torn down around 1960 to make way for a 1964 adaptation of the Military Gothic by Gehron and Seltzer. Although the new library (#757) conforms to the surrounding buildings and preserves the building line south of the Plain, the irremediable loss of the original library which was designed under Delafield and incorporated so many of the features associated with the early Gothic architecture of the Academy, remains a source of deep regret.

Constructed in 1972, two of the last buildings added to this area express both the success and the failure of modern architecture at West Point. Designed by the same architects, in the same year, Bradley Barracks (#756) and Mahan Hall (#752) are extremely different in approach. The problem facing O'Connor and Kilham was to build a barracks which would harmonize with the south facade of the 1960s Eisenhower Barracks on the other side of the Area. Their solution was successful only in creating a building which does not detract from the older building. Unfortunately, the model it had to follow was without distinction,

and the architects did not seize the opportunity to improve on the mediocre. On the other hand, Mahan Hall, which was placed to the south of the impressive Headquarters, Thayer Hall, and Heating Plant, was a much more successful design.

The challenge in designing Mahan Hall was to utilize modern building techniques and materials in so prominent a place without disturbing the significant views of West Point from across the River. In this case, the architects not only accomplished this task, but they excelled in designing a modern building that contributes to the unique militaristic appearance of this area of West Point. Although the stone appears lighter in color than the older buildings, the utilization of massing similar to Thayer Hall, plus the ornamental portcullis, reflective of the one in the Headquarters Building, combine to produce a modern structure which enhances the visual appearance of the Academic area.

Before concluding this examination of the Academic area, a few of the more prominent statues should be mentioned. At the southern end of the Plain are statues of two of the more colorful World War II military heroes who were graduates of the Academy. At the southeastern edge of the Plain stands the statue of General George S. Patton, which was designed by James Earle Fraser and dedicated on August 19, 1950. At the southwestern edge of the Plain is a statue by Walter Hancock of General Douglas MacArthur, who had been Cadet Captain for the Class of 1903 and Superintendent at West Point, 1919-1921. This statue was erected in 1969.*

* Since the conclusion of the research for this report a statue of General Dwight D. Eisenhower has been placed north of the barracks which bears his name.

About half way between these two statues, in front of Washington Hall, is an equestrian statue of George Washington, which is a replica of the statue by H. K. Brown in Union Square, New York City. This statue was dedicated on May 19, 1916, and stood at the northern end of the Plain until 1971. A mystery which has long surrounded this statue is the identity of the donor. Known only as a "patriotic citizen," the donor would not permit his name to be carved into the same stone as that which bears the name of the "Father of our Country." Despite the secrecy which existed about the identity of the donor, one memo from the Superintendent to his files states his name.⁵⁴ Deserving of recognition for his humility and his gift to West Point, the record should now show that the donor was Captain James Scrymser, a veteran of the Civil War and a friend of banker J. P. Morgan (who maintained an estate in Highland Falls).

Conclusion

The designation of the Academic area as an area of primary significance, or zone I area, is dictated by its high quality of historical, architectural, and visual values:

Historically, the Academic area is the original area of utilization at West Point. During the Revolutionary War, this area contained two of the most important defenses, Fort Clinton and the "Great Chain." Since the establishment of West Point as a military academy, the Academic area has housed nearly all the buildings and functions related to the teaching mission: barracks, academic buildings, quarters for the top academy officials and instructors, administrative offices, riding hall, and mess hall. Another historic feature is the open Plain, which serves as a reminder of its historic utilization as a fort, a cadet summer camp, a cavalry and artillery drill ground, and a parade ground. To varying

degrees, there has always been an open Plain around which the ceremonial and training activities have centered. Although most of the buildings fronting on it are of second or third generation, the Plain has endured to serve as a focus for the Academic area and the entire Academy.

Architecturally, this area is important as the primary area of the Academy, and thus it has become West Point's architectural showplace. The architectural interest of this area is significant because it exemplifies the various time periods and the important architectural styles that form the Academy. In addition, several top architectural firms have produced designs here, including: Richard Morris Hunt; McKim, Mead and White; Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson; and Paul P. Cret. The architecture of West Point, as initiated under Delafield and re-emphasized by Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson, successfully demonstrates the militaristic identity of the Academy.

Visually, one immediately discerns the unique and impressive appearance of the Academic area. Viewed from the eastern shore of the Hudson, the granite material and Gothic details combine to resemble a fortress rising from the cliffs. This imagery is a very appropriate visual expression for a military academy. The scene most commonly viewed is that from Trophy Point, looking south. From this point one sees the large granite structures crowned by the impressive chapel to the south, the small-scale light-colored, brick quarters to the west, and the Neo-Classical designs at the southeastern end of the Plain. From this point, one can see how the buildings mix or match with the natural topography of the Hudson River Valley.

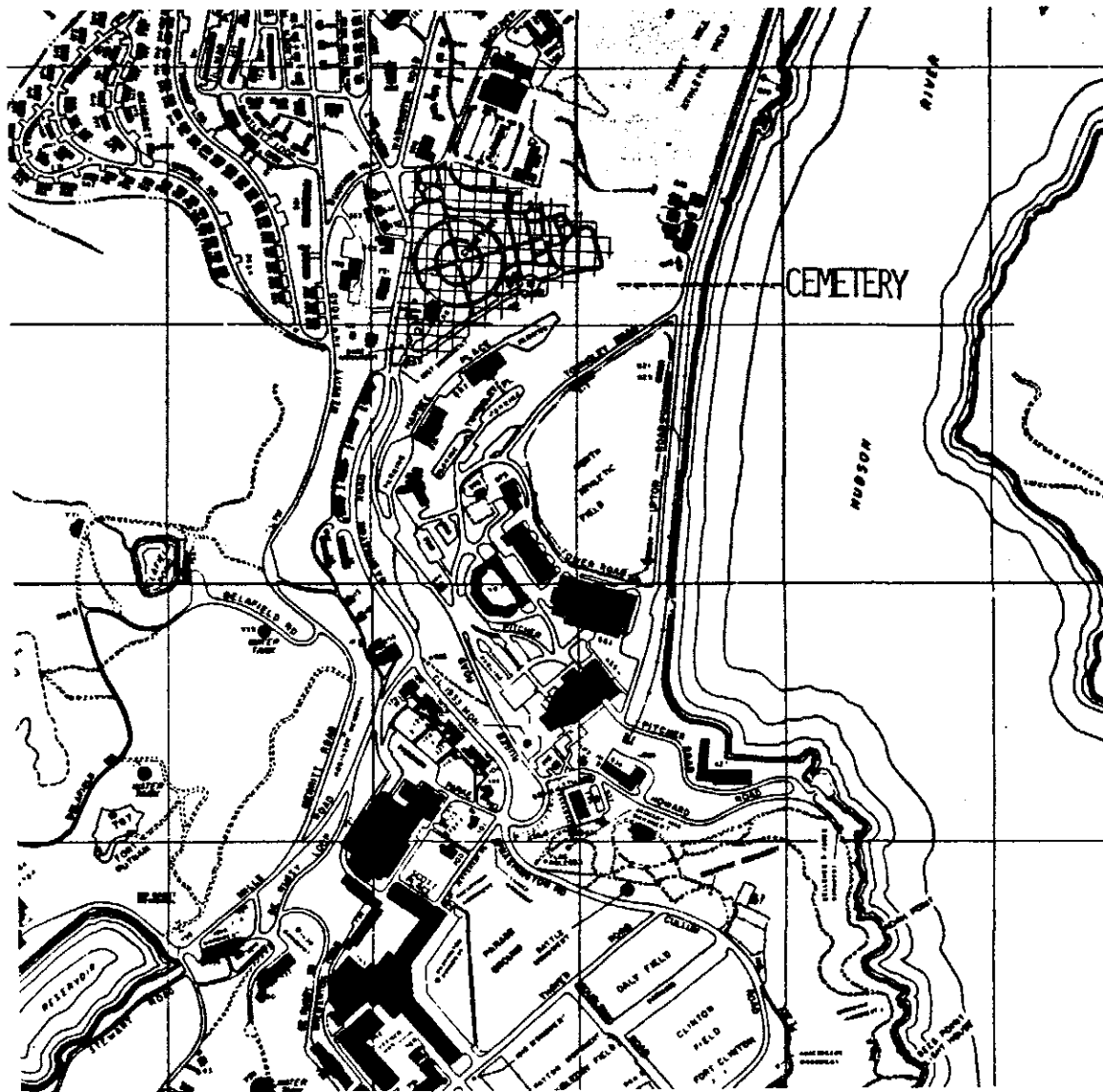
CLOSE-IN HISTORIC AREAS

The following section contains discussions of several areas in close proximity to the Academic area. These areas consist of groupings of buildings with shared historic function and/or similar architectural treatments. Each area, or zone, is located on property which was part of the Academy prior to the land expansion program of the 1930s. At the end of every section, each zone is categorized on a scale of I to IV, depending on the importance of its relationship to the zone of primary historic and architectural importance, the Academic area. Within each zone, each building was individually categorized on a scale of one to four, in relation to its particular contribution to the historic and architectural values of its zone. Buildings not located within a zone were designated category IV, unless extenuating circumstances existed.

Cemetery

Situated on grounds formerly known as German Flats, overlooking what was once known as Washington Valley to the north and Camptown to the west, the West Point Cemetery was established in 1816 (illustration #72). The cemetery originally occupied only the northern portion of the present cemetery, while the southern portion was used as a cadet vegetable garden during much of the 19th century.

The cemetery includes only three buildings: the old Cadet Chapel (#689); a Groundskeeper's Quarters (#329); and a greenhouse (#691). In addition, the cemetery contains a variety of architectural and historical monuments, which range from simple headstones to an elaborate Egyptian Revival Mausoleum.



72. Location map showing the Cadet Cemetery, as defined by the HABS Historic Structures Inventory.

1978

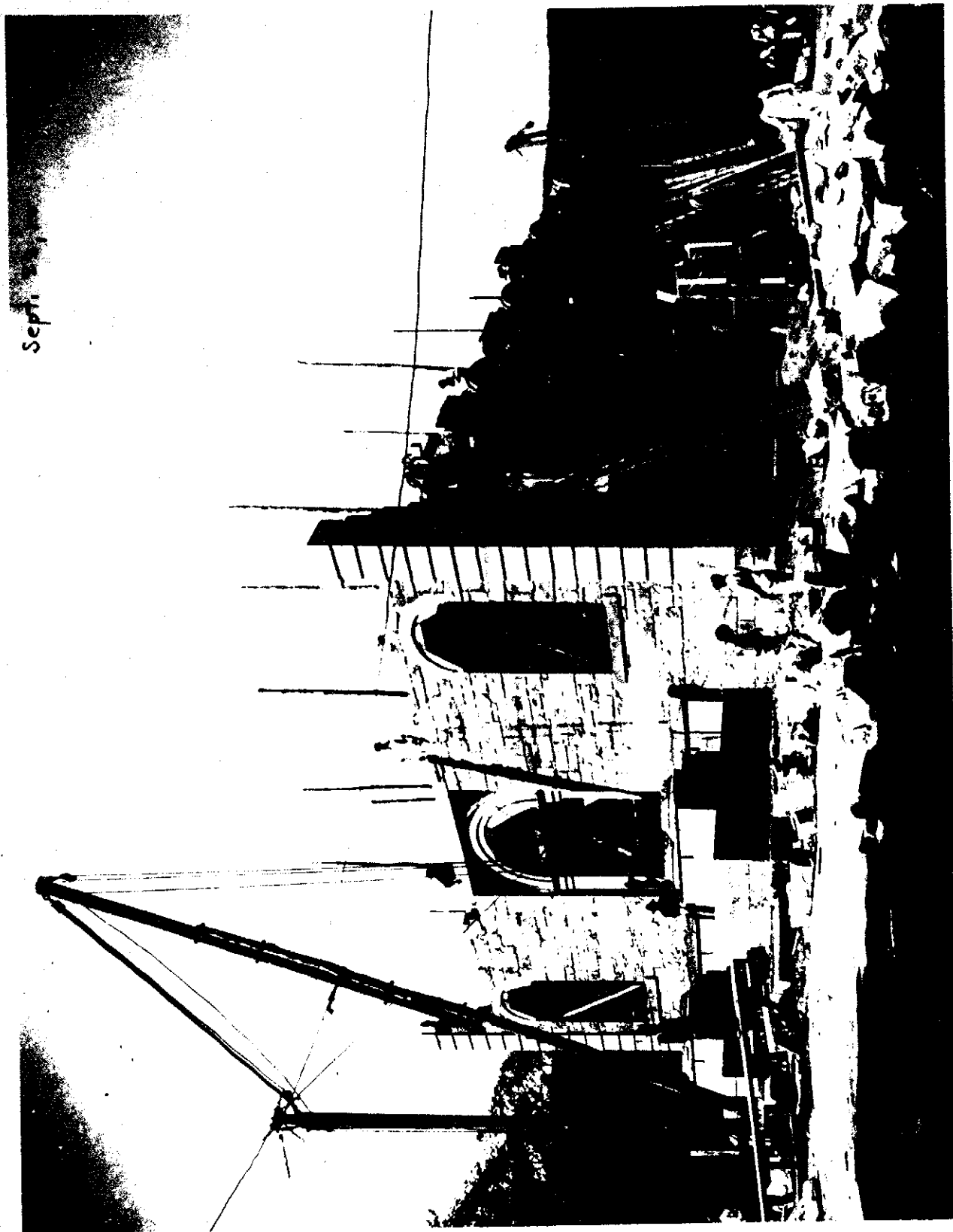
USMA Planning Office (modified)

The oldest of the cemetery buildings is the old Cadet Chapel, built in 1836 and originally located in the Academic area, between the old Library and the old Academic Building. This Classical Revival stone chapel features round-arched windows and entrances and a portico supported by paired fluted columns. By the late 19th century, the Cadet Corps had outgrown the little chapel, and the 1903 architectural competition called for a larger one. The building then was meticulously dismantled and numbered stone by stone for reconstruction at its present site in 1910 (illustration #73 & 33). (See HABS No. NY-5708-7 for detailed description and history.)

Inside the handsome Chapel are numerous items of interest. At the far end is a mural entitled "Peace and War" by the Academy's Professor of Drawing, Robert Weir. Along the walls are several inscribed black marble tablets, added around 1850 to honor the nation's military heroes. Among these military men so "honored" is Benedict Arnold. Unlike the other tablets, the one for Arnold contains only his rank and date of birth. All other information is left blank, representing the stain inflicted upon his honor, and the deep scar left on succeeding generations of cadets by his treasonous efforts to turn West Point over to the British while serving as Commanding Officer at West Point.

North of the Chapel is the Groundskeeper's Quarters (#329), built in 1872. This two-story, half-timber and stone structure was originally a one-story stone cottage, with a one-story frame addition in the rear (illustration #74).⁵⁵ Added after 1905, the half-timber second story is larger than the stone first story and is supported by stone piers.

Beside the Groundskeeper's Quarters is a greenhouse (#691) built in 1919. This replaced an 1886 greenhouse on the same site.⁵⁶



73. The reconstruction of the old Cadet Chapel after it was moved to the cemetery from the Academic area in 1910.

1910

USMA Archives



74. The Winfield Scott gravesite at the cemetery. In the background is the Groundskeeper's cottage before it received the major addition of a 2nd story.

ca. 1875

Special Collections Branch, USMA Library

Existing in relative obscurity during the first half of the 19th century, the cemetery did not begin to receive very much attention until the 1840s. During that decade, a road, stone wall, and an iron gate were constructed on the site of the original cemetery tract.⁵⁷

In 1890, the area formerly used as the cadet vegetable garden was incorporated into the cemetery (illustration #75), and the garden was soon relocated to the Kinsley track at the southern end of the post.⁵⁸ In 1897, the Superintendent reported that a stone wall was rebuilt, and the gates, formerly located at the south gate of the Academy, were repaired and set up at the southern end of the cemetery.⁵⁹ (See HABS No. NY-5708-55 for detailed description and history of cemetery gates.) By 1900, General Egbert C. Viele was reported to be supervising the landscaping.⁶⁰

As the cemetery includes a number of interesting features, a brief examination of some of the more interesting markers should be made.⁶¹

One of the earliest monuments is known as the Cadet Monument, erected in 1818 in memory of Cadet Vincent M. Lowe of New York. Lowe's sudden death on January 1, 1817, in an artillery accident caused much grief among his fellow cadets. Commissioning sculptor Norris V. Kain of New York, the cadets erected this monument, which thereafter received the names of other fallen cadets and officers inscribed into the pedestal (illustration #76).

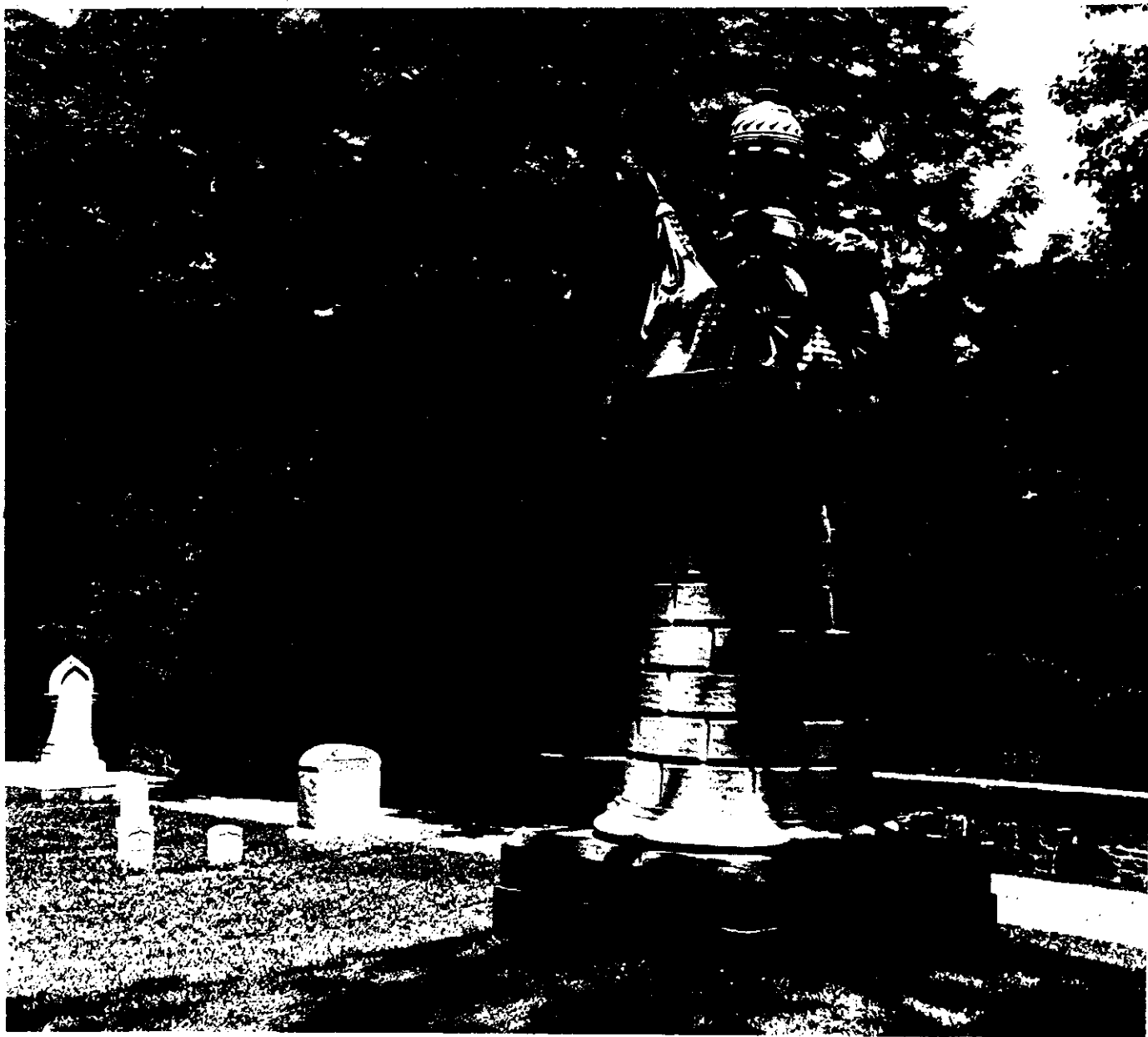
Colonel Sylvanus Thayer, the "Father of the Military Academy" and its Superintendent between 1817 and 1833, is buried at the cemetery below a simple stone block. Thayer is credited with instituting the academic and military training which made West Point so important to the young nation.



75. The Winfield Scott gravesite showing the southern portion of the present cemetery being used as a cadet vegetable garden prior to the 1890s.

ca. 1870

USMA Archives



76. The Cadet Monument which pays tribute to those cadets and West Point professors who died during the first half of the 19th century.

ca. 1950

USMA Archives

An obelisk, in memory of Col. E. Wood, Class of 1806, was originally erected in 1814 on a knoll south of the Ordnance Compound. In 1899, the Superintendent suggested that this monument, which in its original location had served Hudson River travellers as a navigational landmark, be relocated in front of the new Cullum Hall.⁶² Instead, the monument was installed in the cemetery shortly after the turn of the century.

A recently added monument, which honors Margaret ("Molly") Corbin, stands west of the Chapel. Corbin had taken the place of her fallen husband at the Battle of Fort Washington during the Revolutionary War. Pensioned by the Army, Corbin spent her last years in the West Point area.

General of the Army, Winfield Scott, who fought in the War of 1812 and was a leading general during both the Mexican and Civil Wars, is memorialized by a large stone monument surrounded by a handsome iron fence.

An elaborate "wedding cake-like" memorial marks the grave of Civil War Major General Daniel Butterfield, the composer of "Taps" (illustration #77).

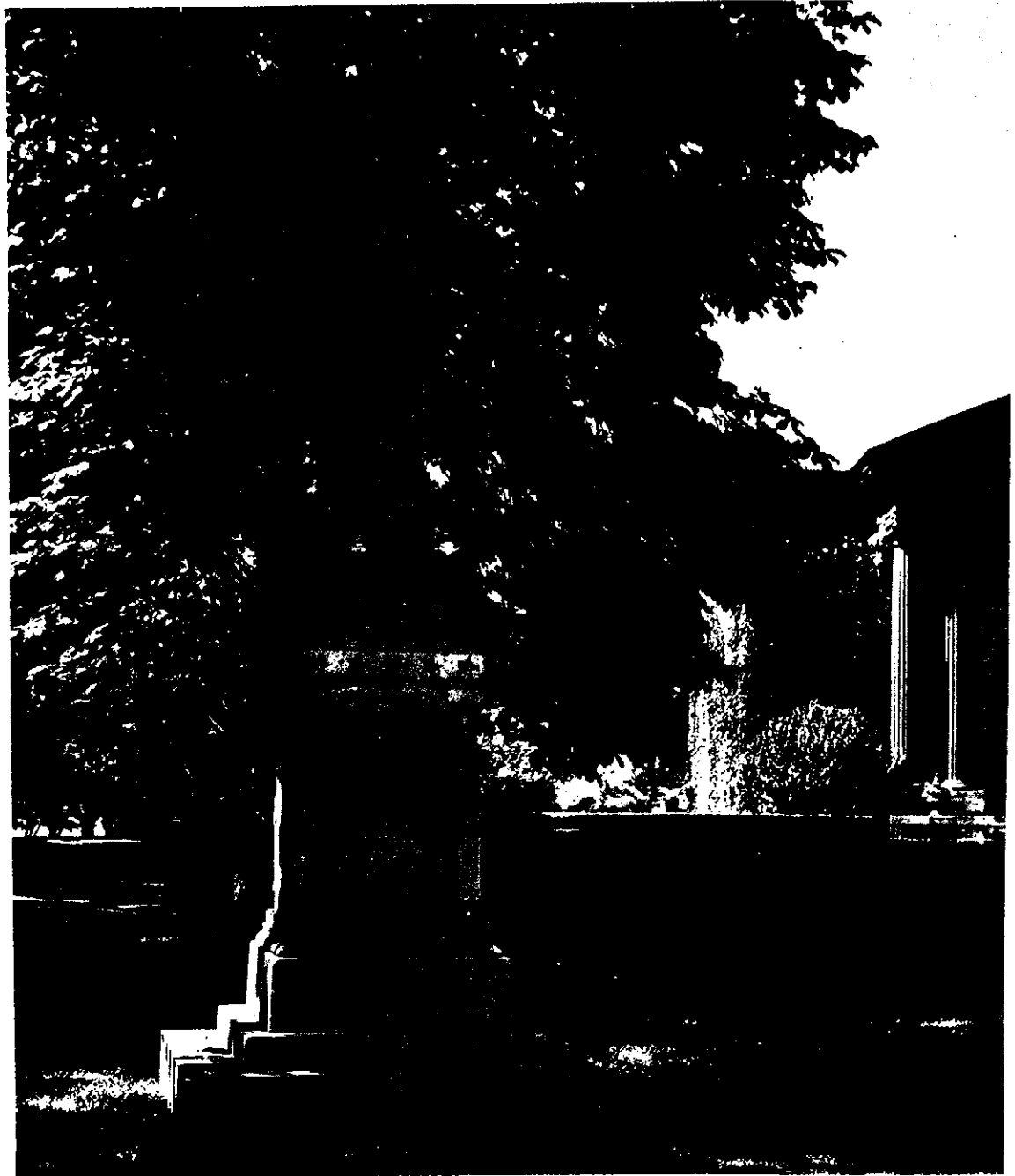
Dedicated to Major Francis Longhorne Dade, who was massacred with his troops by the Semionle Indians in Florida on December 28, 1835, is a monument which has occupied several locations. A column topped with an eagle clutching a garland, this monument was originally erected in 1845 (illustration #78). Located on a spot east of the present Cullum Hall site, the monument had to be removed across the street, to the Plain, due to the erection of Cullum Hall. Moved farther south around 1917, the monument stood across from the old Library until 1948, when it was removed to the cemetery to make room for a memorial to a more recent hero, General George Patton.



77. An elaborate monument over the grave of General Butterfield, the composer of "Taps."

ca. 1950

USMA Archives



78. The Dade Monument memorializes Major Francis Dade and his troops, who were massacred by the Seminole Indians in 1835. One of the earliest memorials at the Academy, this monument was originally located on the Plain.

A monument with an even more complex history is that to General George Armstrong Custer. Although Custer graduated at the bottom of his class at West Point in 1861, it must have been believed that a memorial to him would inspire the cadets. In 1879, the monument, consisting of a bronze statue and stone pedestal designed by Wilson MacDonald, was dedicated near the old Administration Building (illustration #79). Criticized for its swashbuckling pose, with the subject wielding both saber and pistol, the statue was removed in late 1884. Years later, after rediscovering the statue in the Quartermaster's storage at West Point, a scheme was devised to separate the bust from its objectionable extremities. Sent to the John Williams Foundry in New York City, the statue is last mentioned in a letter from Stanford White, a prominent architect who was charged with overseeing the modification. Since that time the location of the statue has not been determined. By 1965, an obelisk was placed atop the original pedestal, which had been relocated to the Cadet Cemetery (illustration #80).⁶³

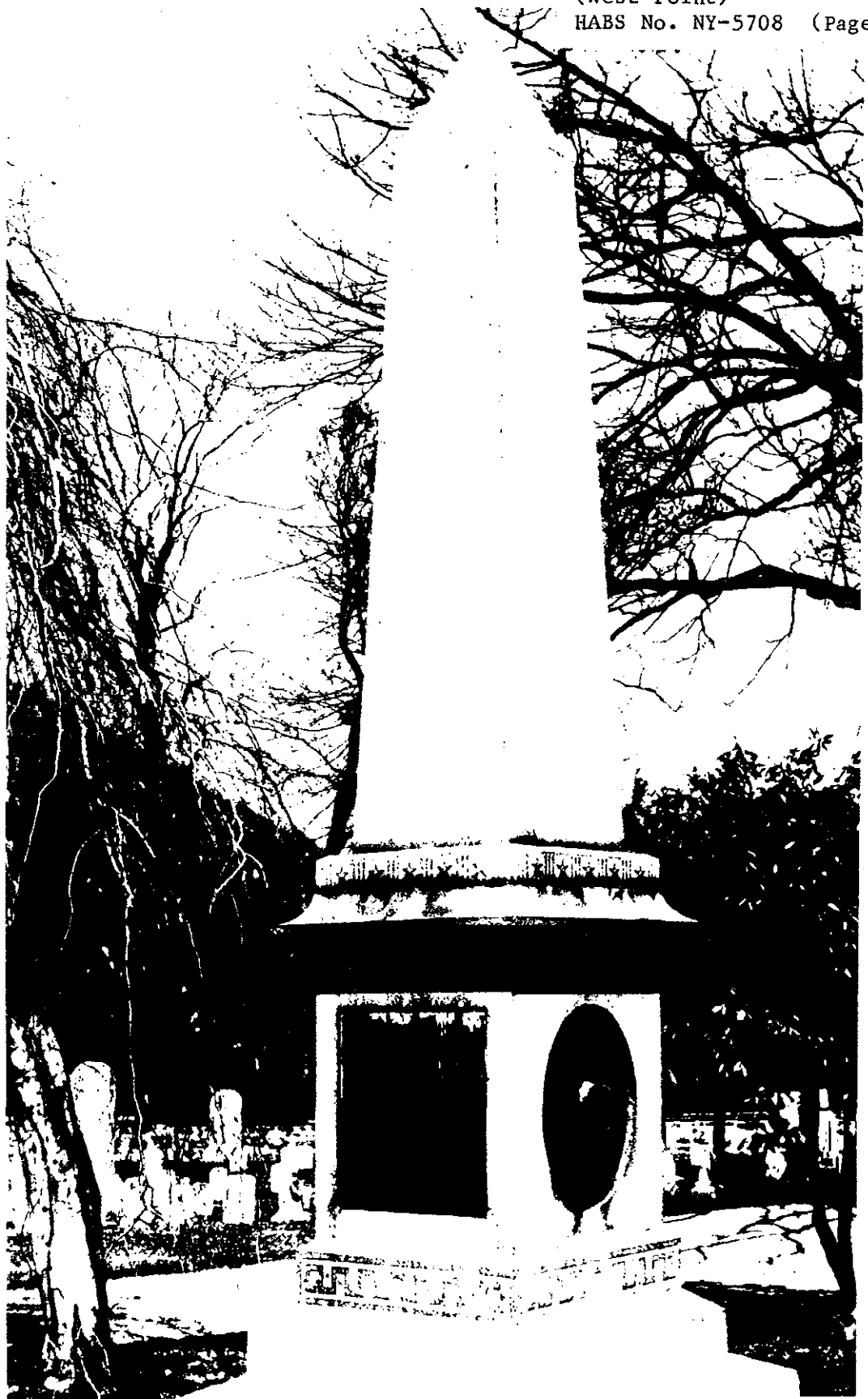
One of the most interesting memorial designs is the mausoleum of General Egbert C. Viele. According to some, Viele's claim to history was denied him after the commission to design Central Park was taken from him and given to Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux.⁶⁴ Nevertheless, he continued an involvement with landscaping, including supervising the work at the expanded West Point Cemetery. Preceded in death by his wife, Viele devised an Egyptian Revival Mausoleum, which featured two Sphinx-like figures at the entrance (illustration #81). Legend has it that he was either afraid of being buried alive or expected to rise from the dead, and he had installed in the crypt an alarm, which would sound in the Groundskeeper's Quarters. It requires little imagination to suppose that mischievous cadets were wont to set off the alarm as a sophomoric prank to arouse the startled occupant of the Groundskeeper's Cottage.



79. The original Custer Memorial, erected in 1879 near the Headquarters Building. The swashbuckling statue was soon removed from view, and later lost entirely.

ca. 1880

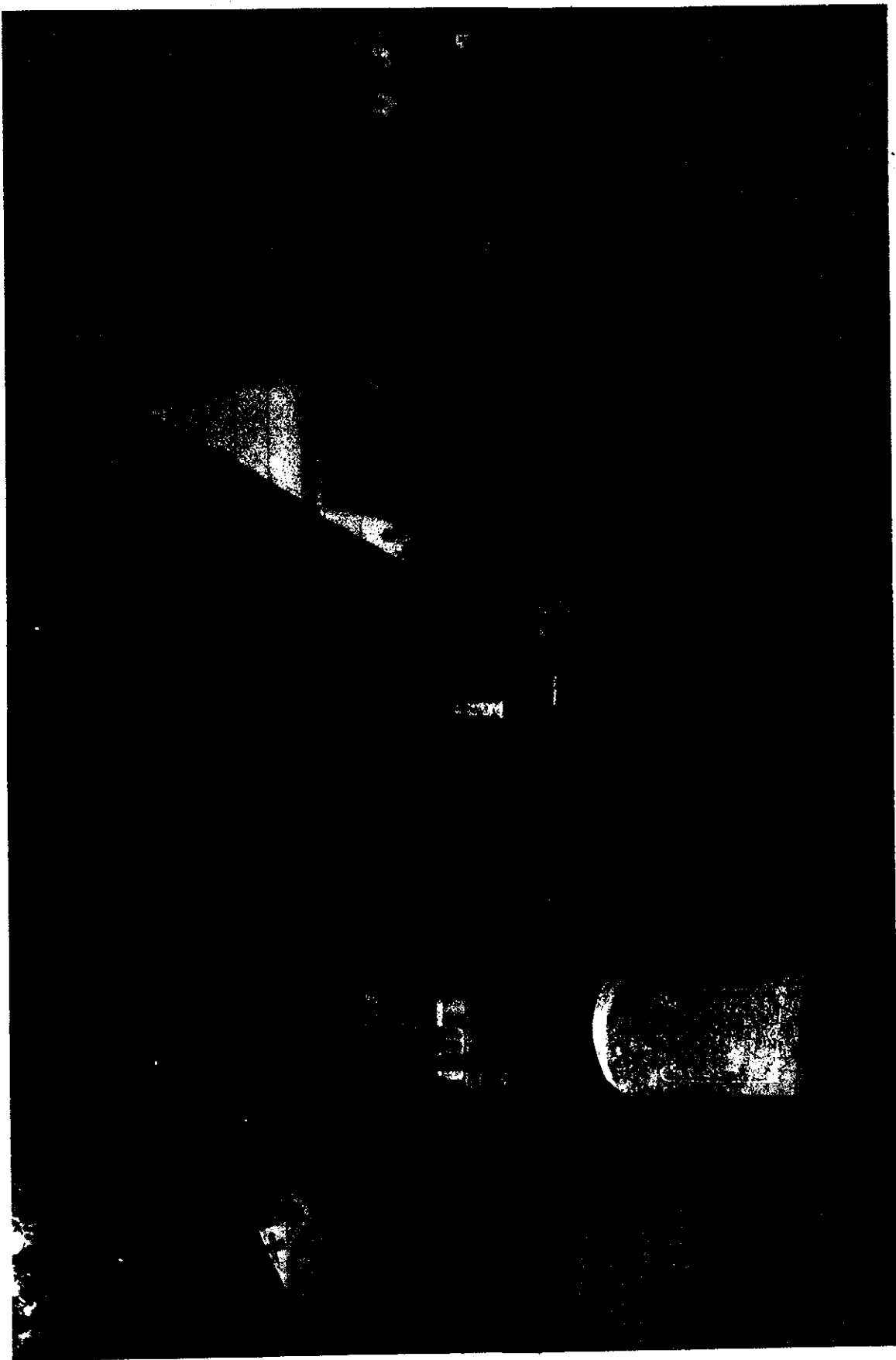
USMA Archives



80. The recycled pedestal of the original Custer Memorial. After the turn of the century it was relocated to the cemetery and topped with a less flamboyant monument.

ca. 1950

USMA Archives



81. An early view of the cemetery, following its expansion under the direction of General Egbert C. Viele. In the background is an Egyptian-Revival crypt designed by Viele for his wife and himself. This crypt has long been the scene of cadet pranks.

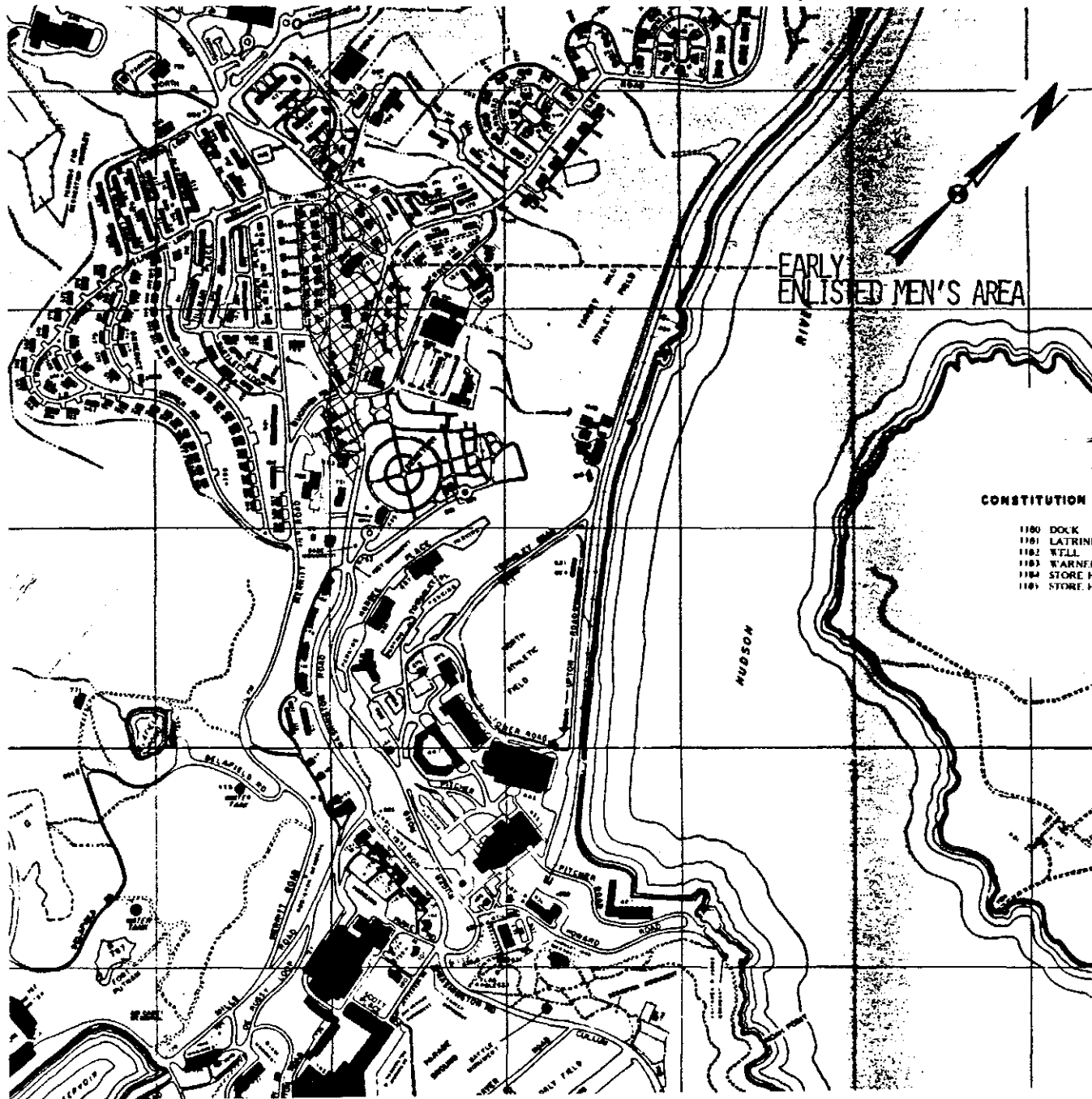
Hundreds of other monuments memorialize a wide range of individual, from George W. Goethals, builder of the Panama Canal, to Edward H. White, class of 1952, first man to walk in space. Each of these men was involved in one of the most significant technological advances of his generation. Yet the cemetery also memorializes those who served much less dramatic roles in the history of West Point. One such example is that of Louis Bentz, or "Old Bentz" as he was known to all who passed through the Academy for the thirty-two years that he served as Academy bugler during the mid 19th century.

The West Point cemetery is designated a Category II Zone . The cemetery includes items of exceptional historical and architectural interest. What prevents this area from qualifying as a Zone I area is only its lack of a more direct relationship with the teaching mission of the Academy. As the final resting place for the Academy's honored dead, the cemetery serves to reinforce the linkage between the contributions and sacrifices of previous graduates with the responsibility and seriousness of purpose expected of future graduates.

Early Enlisted Men's Area

Northwest of the cemetery stands the Early Enlisted Men's area (illustration #82). Having developed over a period of 120 years, this area can best be viewed from a chronological perspective.

By examining this zone, we are reminded that there historically have been two missions at West Point. Most obvious is the teaching mission of the United States Military Academy, established in 1802. The other mission is that of the military post. Having been established during the Revolutionary War, West Point is now the oldest American military post in continuous use.



82. Location map showing the Early Enlisted Men's area, as defined by the HABS Historic Structures Inventory.

1978

USMA Planning Office (modified)

Clearly, the importance of the military post mission has waned since the conclusion of the War of 1812. Since then, the mission of the military post has evolved into a support group for the needs of the ever-growing teaching mission.

The Early Enlisted Men's area, which includes what was known as Rugerstown (named after Superintendent Thomas M. Ruger, 1871-1876), was the second location used to segregate the enlisted men and their families from the impressionable cadets. The first area, known as Camptown, was located north of, and below, Professors Row. Despite the fact that the topographical restraints imposed by a river on one side and a mountain on the other dictated a limited selection of sites for expansion, there are indications that other motives led to the selection of what was then the northern extreme of the post.

Common among military installations, the segregation of military post personnel and their families from the cadets was evident during every period of development at West Point. In the 1899 Report of Visitors, the suggestion was made that the number of enlisted men quartered on post be reduced rather than increased.⁶⁵ Four reasons were given: first, the soldiers and their families were a source of infectious diseases which were a constant threat to the Cadet Corps; second, the inclusion of large numbers of housing units for soldiers and their families exhausted the Academy's appropriated funding; third, the area used for such quarters could be used for purposes more immediate to the needs of training cadets; and finally, providing quarters for soldiers and their families only encouraged marriages, thus increasing the number of dependents on post. Although it is impossible to know the precise depth of such hostilities, it is safe to say that such concerns did have an impact on the planning and layout of this part of the Academy.

The push of enlisted personnel to the this area began as early as 1865, with the construction of a number of ordinary frame quarters (#352, 356, 360, 364, 368) designated for married enlisted men (illustration #83). Humble, yet adequate, in design, the buildings which survive from that period reflect the appearance of this area's mid-19th century landscape, which has been lost due to the the many structures added since the end of the century. (See HABS No. NY-5708-52 for detailed description and history of Quarters #352.)

In 1867, a munitions magazine for the Ordnance Department (#715) was placed in what is now the center of this area. Though heavily modified, this building still stands, and is used as a switch station.

In 1875, a one-story brick schoolhouse for soldiers' children (#693) was erected at the area's southeastern boundary, further reinforcing the function of this area. This replaced the earlier use of the basement of the Soldiers' Chapel, situated near the present site of Eisenhower Hall.⁶⁶

Beginning in 1890, this area experienced a concerted building program centering around a long-awaited new soldiers' hospital (#126). Completed by 1892, this building replaced an 1851 hospital, which had been located near the site of the present field house. This two-story building with one-story side wings was erected on a knoll between the sites of the old artillery and cavalry vegetable gardens (illustration #84). The higher elevation offered greater availability of fresh air and corrected sanitary and sewage problems present in the older hospital. These sanitary improvements, combined with the pleasing low-lying design, added up to a significant improvement over the earlier hospital. (See HABS No. NY-5708-17 for detailed description and history.)



83. A typical example of quarters built for married enlisted men during the 1860s in the Early Enlisted Men's area. A few examples of this type of building remain.

ca. 1910

USMA Archives

In 1894, a Hospital Steward's quarters (#374) was built on the slope north of the hospital (illustration #85). Additional improvements to the Hospital include: the completion of a stone wall around the Hospital in 1900; an addition to the steward's quarters in 1901; the rebuilding of the Hospital's front porch after it was damaged by a fire in 1907; and a rear wing of nurses quarters added in 1914.⁶⁷ (See HABS No. NY-5708-18 for detailed description and history.)

The hospital became a focal point for the enlisted men's area, and, during the 1890s, more family quarters for enlisted men were added to the south (#330, 332, 334), east (#336, 340, 344, 348, 352), and west (#364, 368, 345, 349, 353, 347, 361, 365, 369, 373) (illustration #86). Designed in two slightly different styles, these simple brick buildings were designed to be humble, yet sufficient. (See HABS No. NY-5708-53 for detailed description and history of quarters #344.)

Twentieth-century additions to the area include: a 1919 enlisted men's quarters (#692) south of the hospital, which reflects the low horizontal lines of the hospital (illustration #87); two 1935 Non-Commissioned Officer family quarters (#423, 415) west of the Steward's Quarters; a set of four attached 1935 Non-Commissioned Officers family quarters west of the Hospital (#427, 429, 431, 433); and a 1935 relocation of an 1895 enlisted men's family quarters. The latter reference refers to one of the twelve Non-Commissioned Officers quarters which were listed in a 1935 Superintendent's Report as being relocated from the site of a new building (perhaps the site of the Facility Engineers Facility #667, in the Post Services area).⁶⁸ (See HABS No. NY-5708-54 for detailed description and history of quarters #692.)

Currently most of the buildings designed as quarters continue to serve as such.

In contrast, the enlisted men's barracks (#692) presently serves as a Religious



84. The focal point of the expansion in the Early Enlisted Men's area, the old Soldiers' Hospital was built during the early 1890s. Presently serving as quarters, this building still serves as this area's focal point.

ca. 1910

USMA Archives



85. To the north of the Soldiers' Hospital, this Hospital Stewart's Quarters was built in 1894.

ca. 1912

USMA Archives



86. A row of 1890s quarters for married enlisted men along Biddle Loop.
Many of these buildings remain today.

ca. 1900

USMA Archives



87. A 1919 enlisted men's barracks, located southeast of the old Soldiers' Hospital, which today serves as a religious education facility.

ca. 1925

USMA Archives

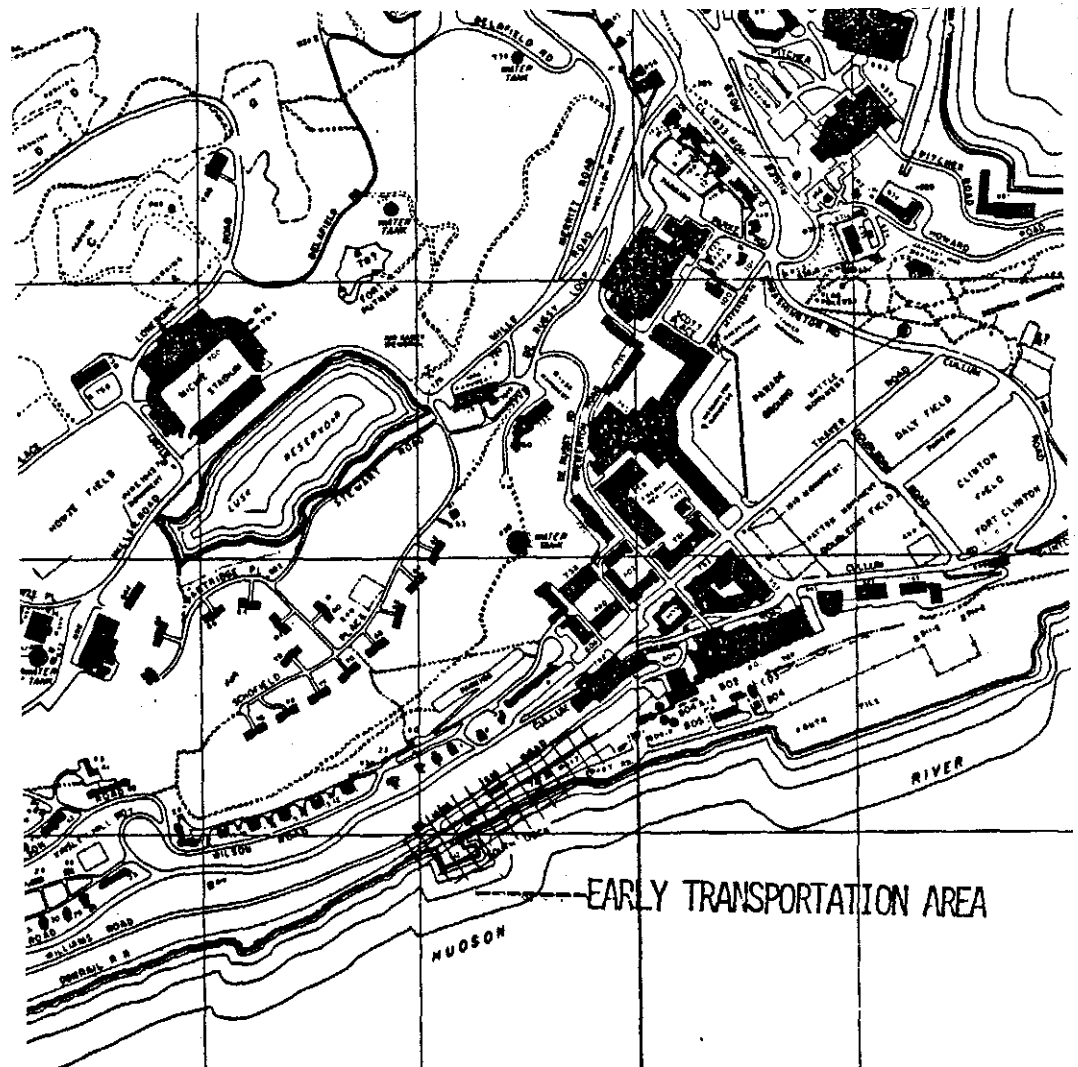
Education Facility. The hospital, later a military police barracks and guard house, now serves as family housing. The magazine is currently a switch station, and the soldiers' children's school, greatly expanded, serves as a youth center.

This area has been designated a Category II Zone for three reasons, which reflect its historical and architectural interest. The area was established over 100 years ago to house the enlisted men required to fulfill the support mission of the military post. It should be pointed out that the historical importance of the military post mission is second only to the teaching mission at West Point. Second, the area includes the 19th-century buildings designed to service the soldiers, a hospital and school. Third, this area includes examples of quarters built for soldiers and their families during the 1860s, 1870s, 1890s, 1910s, and 1930s. The presence of these residences and service buildings serves as a constant reminder of the separate community created for the enlisted men and their families since the 1860s.

The Early Transportation Area

Along the Hudson River, south of the Academic area and east of the old frame officers' quarters along Thayer Road, stand the South Dock and the Railroad Station (illustration #88). As the significance of this area to West Point primarily lies in now abandoned modes of transportation, it is described as the Early Transportation area.

At the north end of this area, the railroad tracks run into two tunnels; one runs under the Plain, and one to the Heating Plant. At the south end of this area, a 1971 utilitarian structure serves as the Harbor Craft Office (#682). Between the tunnels and the Harbor Craft office, on the east side of the tracks, is a small,



88. Location map showing the Early Transportation area, as defined by the HABS Historic Structures Inventory.

1978

USMA Planning Office (modified)

simple baggage shed (#742) with a sloped roof supported by large brackets. This was built at approximately the same time, and in the same style, as the original 1880s train station, which no longer stands. Between the South Dock and the baggage shed, located on the west side of the tracks, is the Railroad Station (#696) built in 1926. A handsome brick building with Tudor motifs, the Railroad Station features glazed terra cotta trim. (See HABS No. NY-5708-29 for detailed description and history.)

In order to appreciate the significance of this zone, one must look back to the days prior to the invention of the automobile. During the first half century of West Point's existence, visitors, officers and cadets alike usually arrived by packet, steamship, or ferry (illustration #89). One of two approaches from the river (the other being North Dock, west of Gee's Point), South Dock most often was used to receive prominent visitors. As could be expected with something as vulnerable to the elements as a dock, the structure has been rebuilt many times in several different sites in this general area (illustration #90). Research has determined a few of these rebuildings, which include: the 1883 erection of a dock by the railroad, which was listed as being located north of the Garrison-West Point Ferry Company slip; an 1899 new south dock and ferry slip; a 1942 rebuilding; and a 1957 repair after the oil tanker, "The Cabins", lost control rounding Gee's Point and practically destroyed the south dock.⁶⁹ Prior to the construction of a railroad on the western shore, visitors arriving by rail from New York City could take the ferry across from Garrison's Landing on the Hudson's eastern shore (illustration #91).

The railroad on the West Point side of the river was first approved by an Act of Congress on December 14, 1867, giving the Hudson River and West Shore Railroad Company permission to operate a railroad across the public lands at West Point.



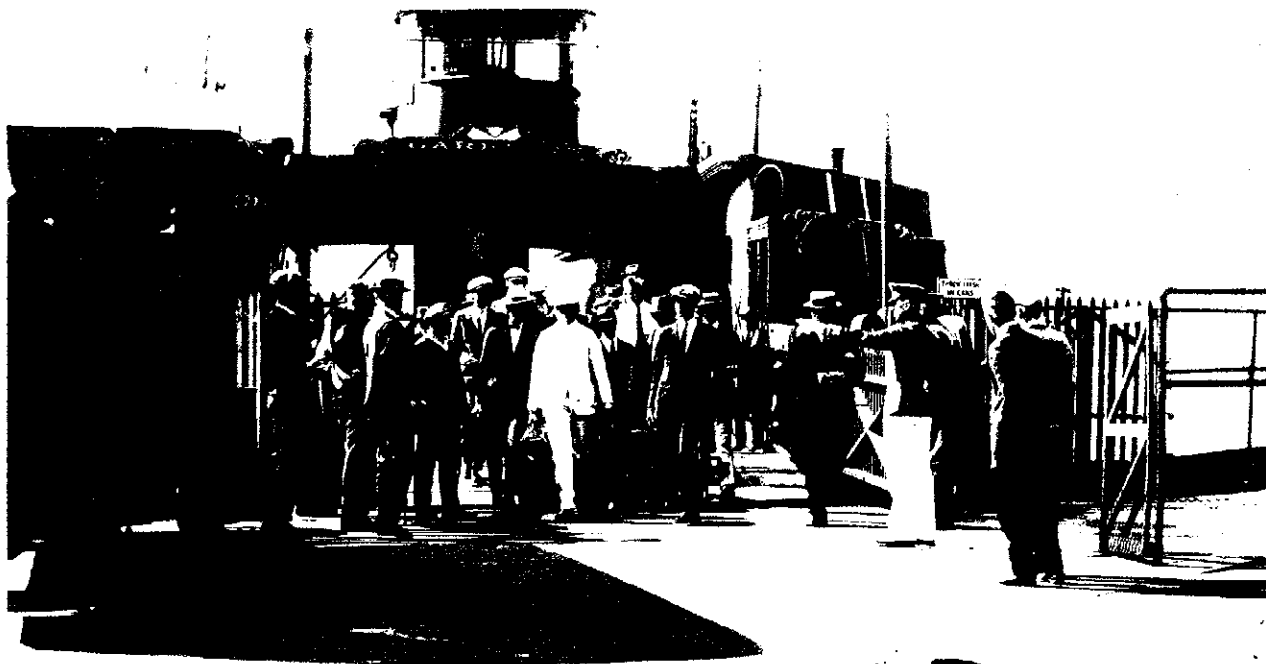
89. A view of the Academy from the opposite shore of the Hudson, at the Garrison's Landing Ferry slip.



90. The South Dock area, looking south.

ca. 1870

USMA Archives



91. New plebes disembarking from the Garrison's Landing Ferry.

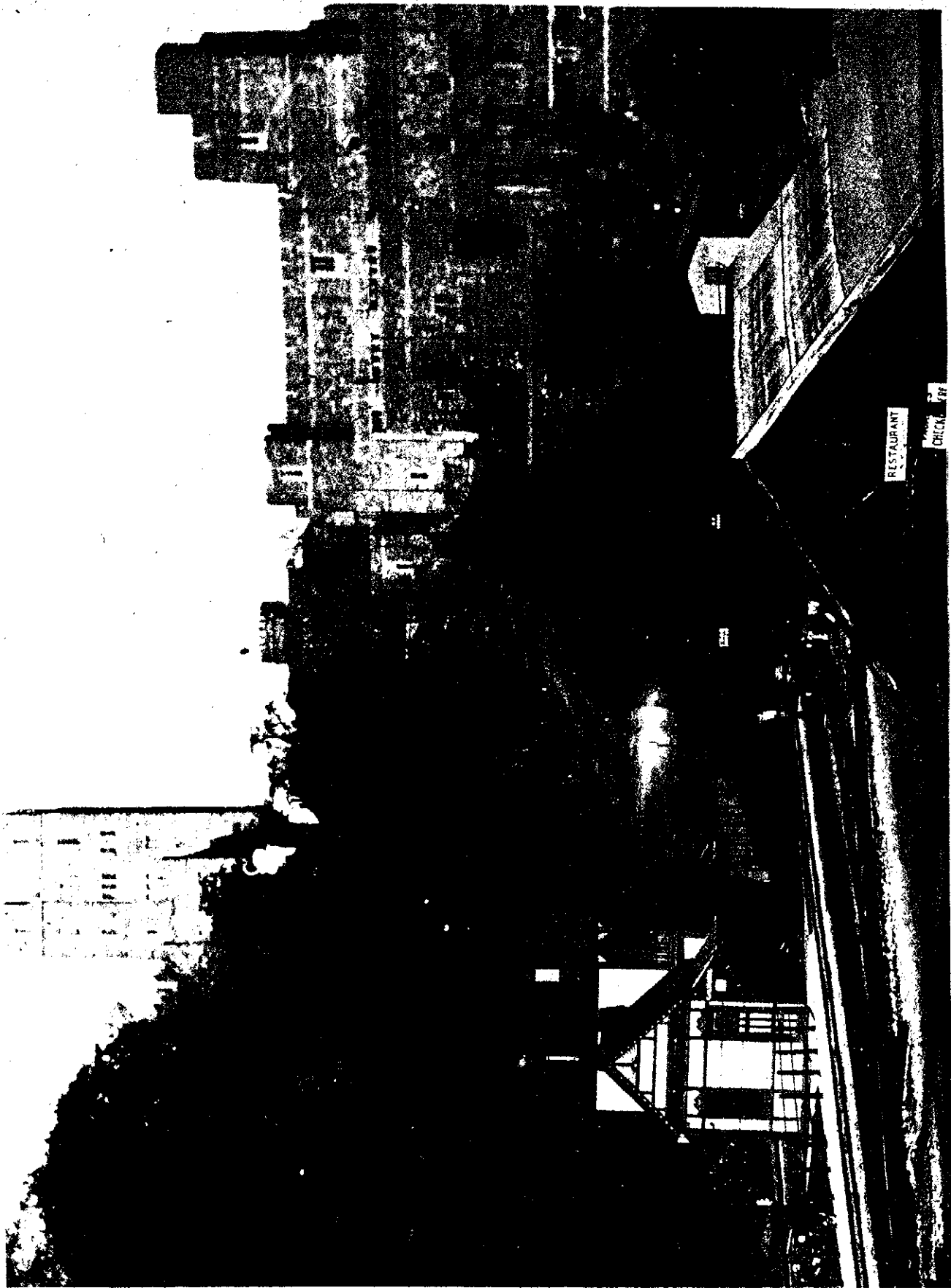
ca. 1925

USMA Archives

Despite a plan approved by the Secretary of War in 1872 to tunnel below the Plain, it was not until 1880 that the "Railroad Advisory Board" at West Point finally developed a completely agreeable plan (illustration #92). The new agreement dictated that the railroad assume the costs of all disruptions to the Academy. Not only did the railroad fill in the land where shallow waters were believed to contribute to malarial disorders, but they also built a new observatory east of Lusk Reservoir.⁷⁰ This was necessary because the tunneling under the Plain had disturbed the accuracy of the astronomical calculations being made by the sensitive equipment located in the old Library's towers.

The railroad station existing today was built in 1926, replacing the 1880s, two-story, frame structure (illustration #93 & 94). Even as the new railroad station was being constructed, the growing popularity of the automobile and the increase in bus transportation was causing the railroad to fade in importance. By the late 1950s, passenger service was halted on this line, contributing to the disuse of this area as a significant point of arrival for visitors and cadets (illustration #95).

Designated a Category II Zone, this area serves as a reminder of the predominant modes of transportation during most of West Point's existence. Although no longer utilized to its previous extent, the railroad and the dock area rate high historically for their functional connection with the hundreds of important visitors and the thousands of cadets who first saw West Point from this area. The surviving structures are important as visible symbols reflecting this historic transportation function.



92. The Academic area, as seen from the Early Transportation area, showing the original 1880s train station and the entrance to the tunnel which runs under the Plain.

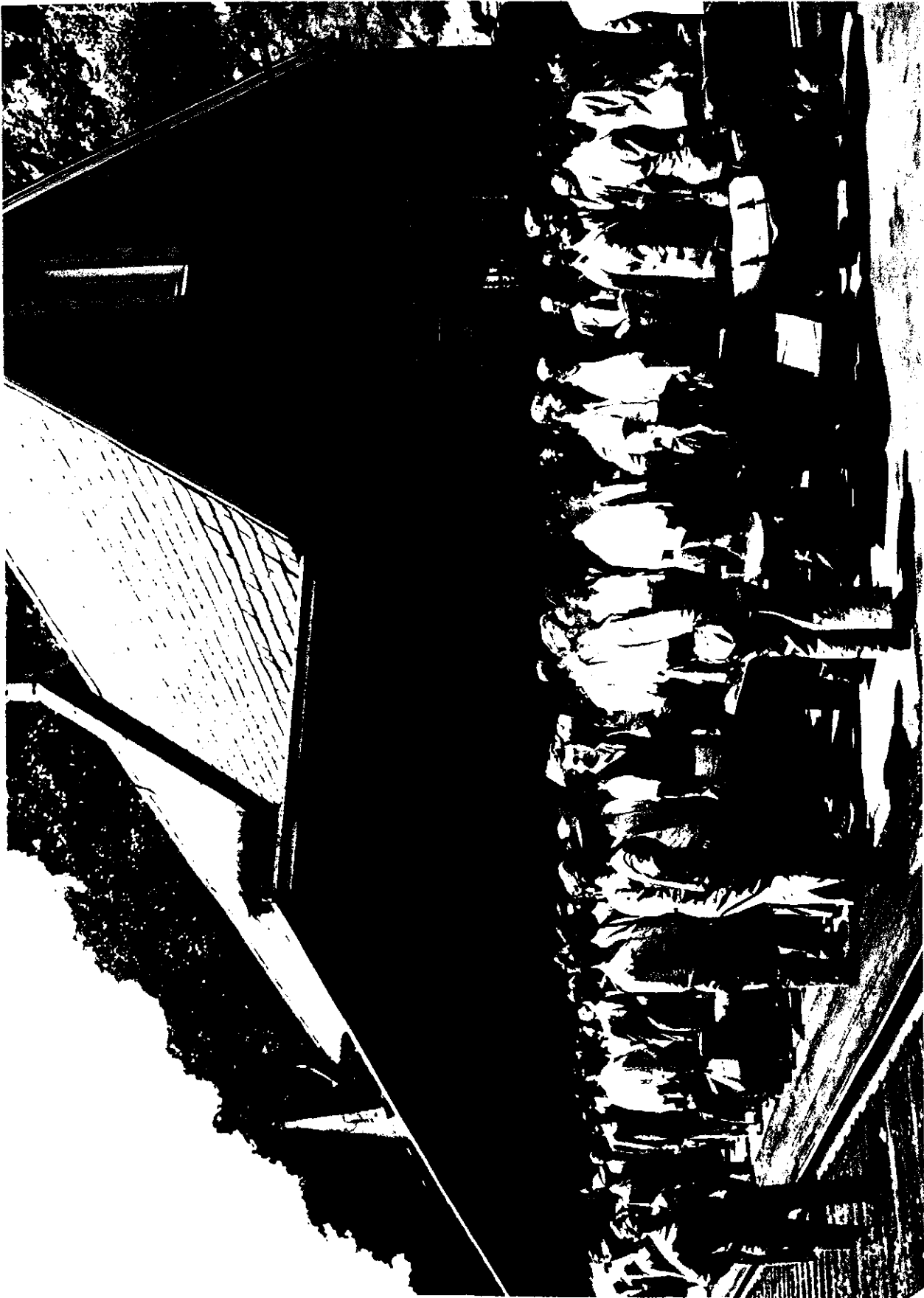


*New Railroad Station
West Point, N.Y.
Open by June 1926*

93. An interesting view showing the old and new railroad stations.

1926

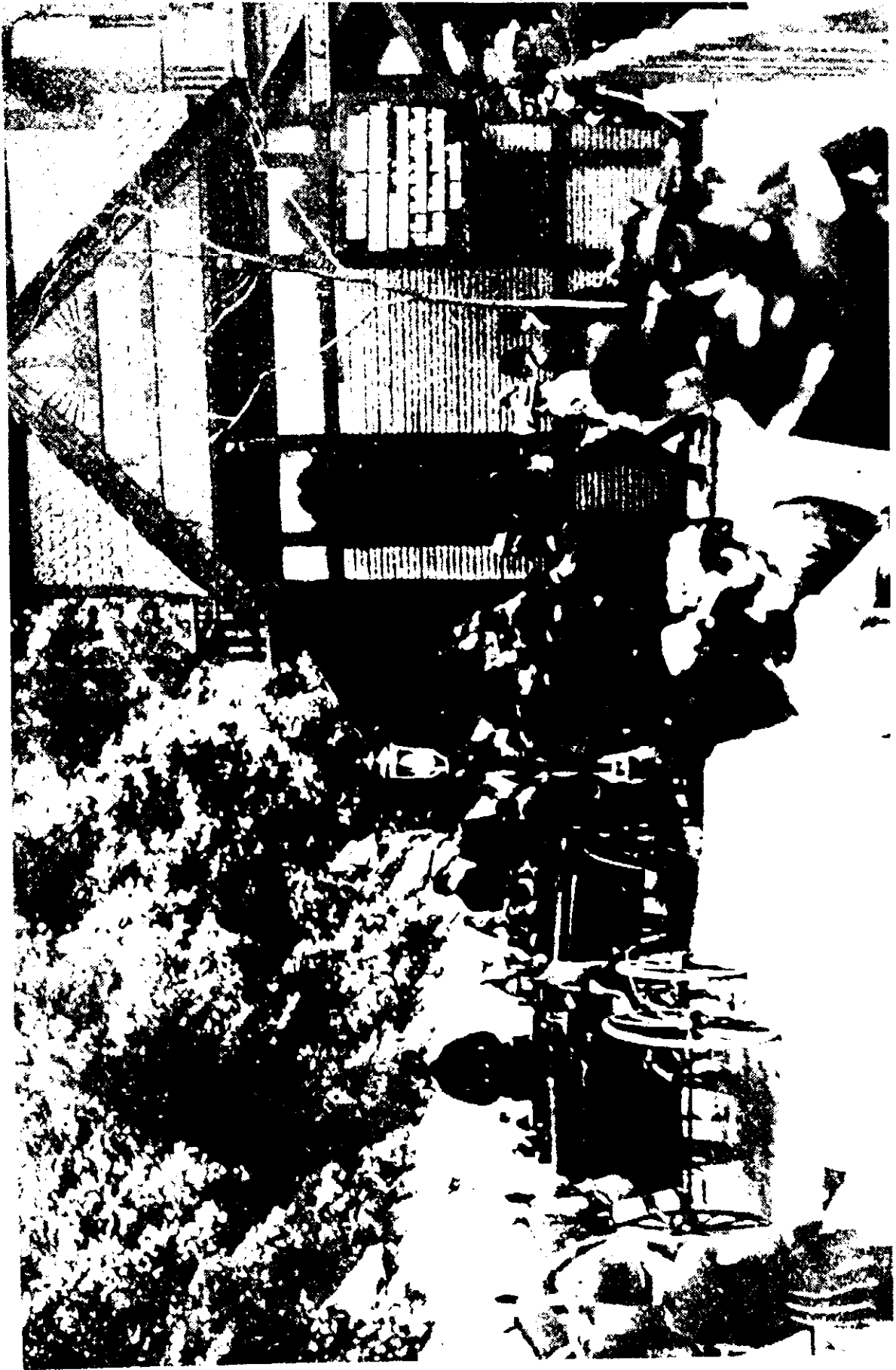
USMA Archives



94. New plebes arriving at the new West Point Railroad Station.

1943

USMA Archives



95. One of many important visitors to West Point, President Theodore Roosevelt arrives at the old train station.

ca. 1902

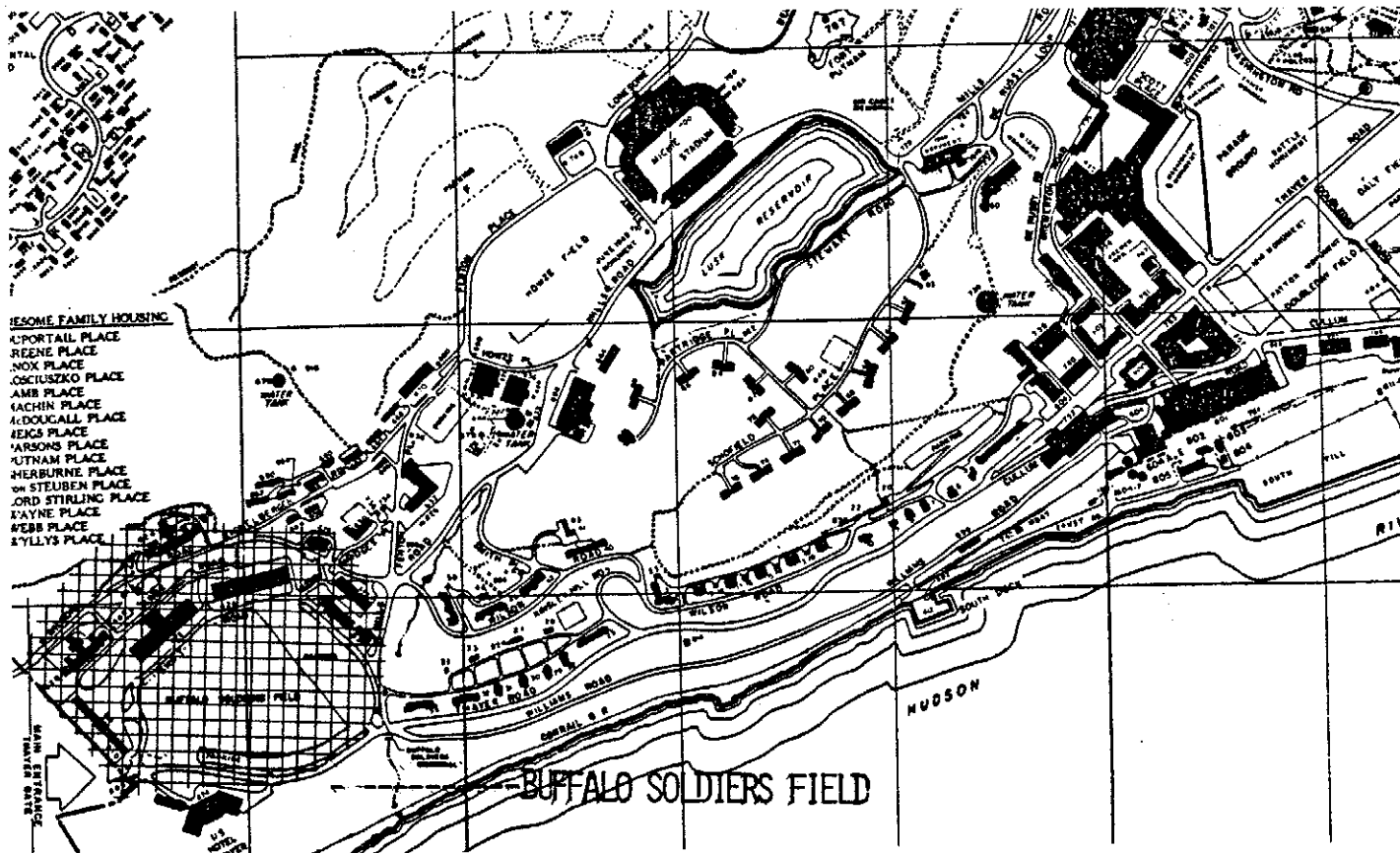
USMA Archives

Buffalo Soldiers Field

Situated at the southern end of the military reservation stands a group of buildings centered around an area known as Buffalo Soldiers Field (illustration #96). Part of the 1903 design scheme, this area was designed as a cavalry and artillery drill area by Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson. The original six buildings were built in 1908.

Despite the intention of West Point authorities to locate the drill ground on this spot, Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson had expected to utilize an area at the northern end of the post, near the old Soldiers' Hospital (#126). After both sites were reconsidered, the southern site was chosen. Reasons in favor of the southern location included: a distance from the Riding Hall of 4,050 feet, versus that of 6,900; the advantage of 1,845,000 square feet for drill maneuvering, versus only 584,000; and the shelter which this site afforded from the cold northern wind sweeping down the Hudson.⁷¹

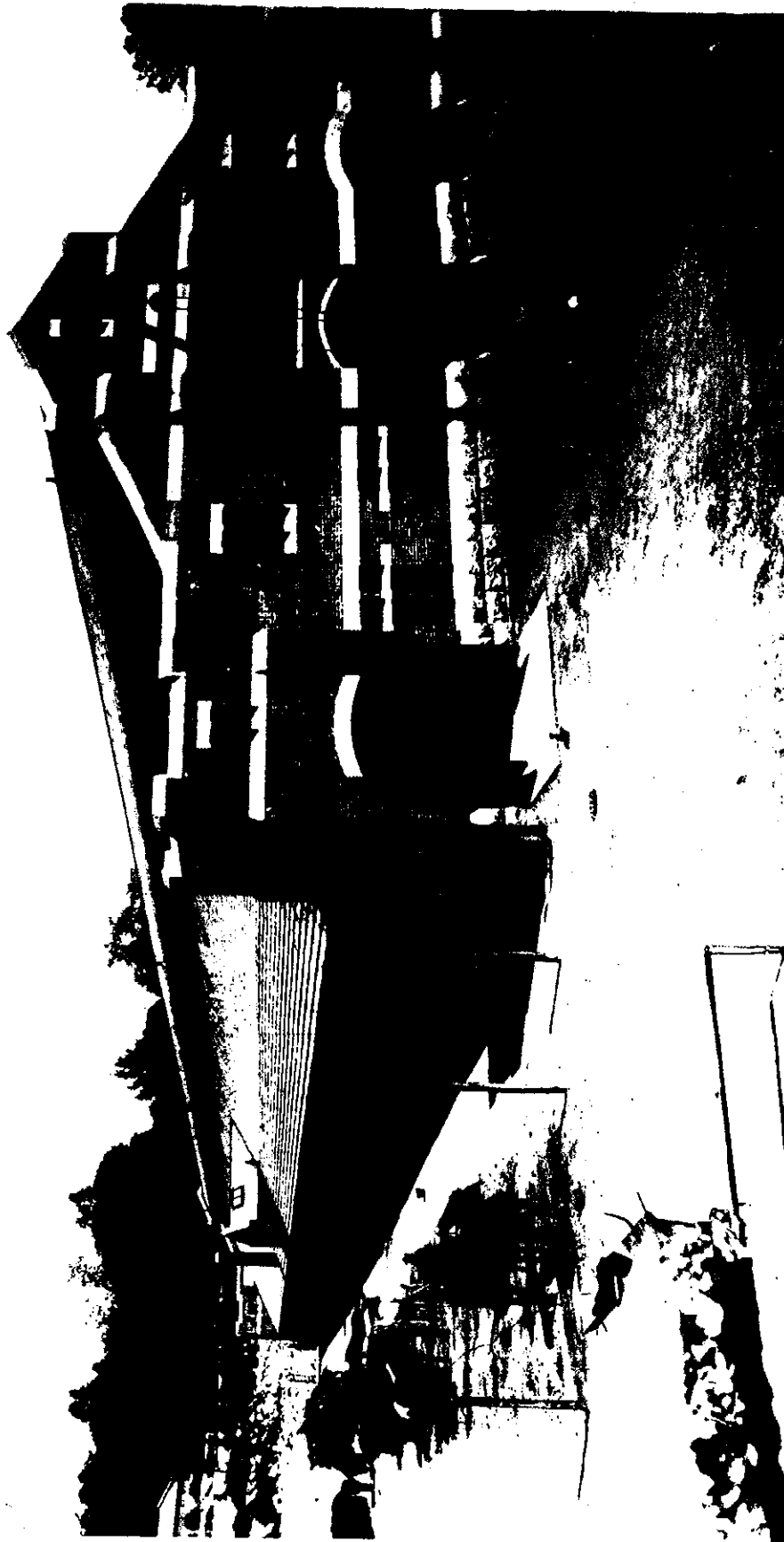
Originally the design included six buildings: the artillery and cavalry barracks (#620 & 624 respectively); the artillery and cavalry stables (#622 & 626 respectively) (illustration #97); a field artillery gun shed (#618); and a Branch Exchange (#628) (illustration #98). (See HABS No. NY-5708-27, NY-5708-28, NY-5708-46, and NY-5708-47, and NY-5708-56, for detailed description and history.) Situated in a semi-circle around an open field, the stables rest at the foot of the western ridge, with the gun shed to the south, the exchange to the north, and the barracks to the west. In addition, located at the southeastern end of this area was the South Gate, with a Guard House designed by Richard Morris Hunt and erected, after his death, in 1898 (illustration #99).



96. Location map showing the Buffalo Soldiers Field area, as defined by the HABS Historic Structures Inventory.

1978

USMA Planning Office (modified)



97. Designed by Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson, the Cavalry Stable (1908) is one of a group of cohesively designed buildings at Buffalo Soldiers Field.

ca. 1908

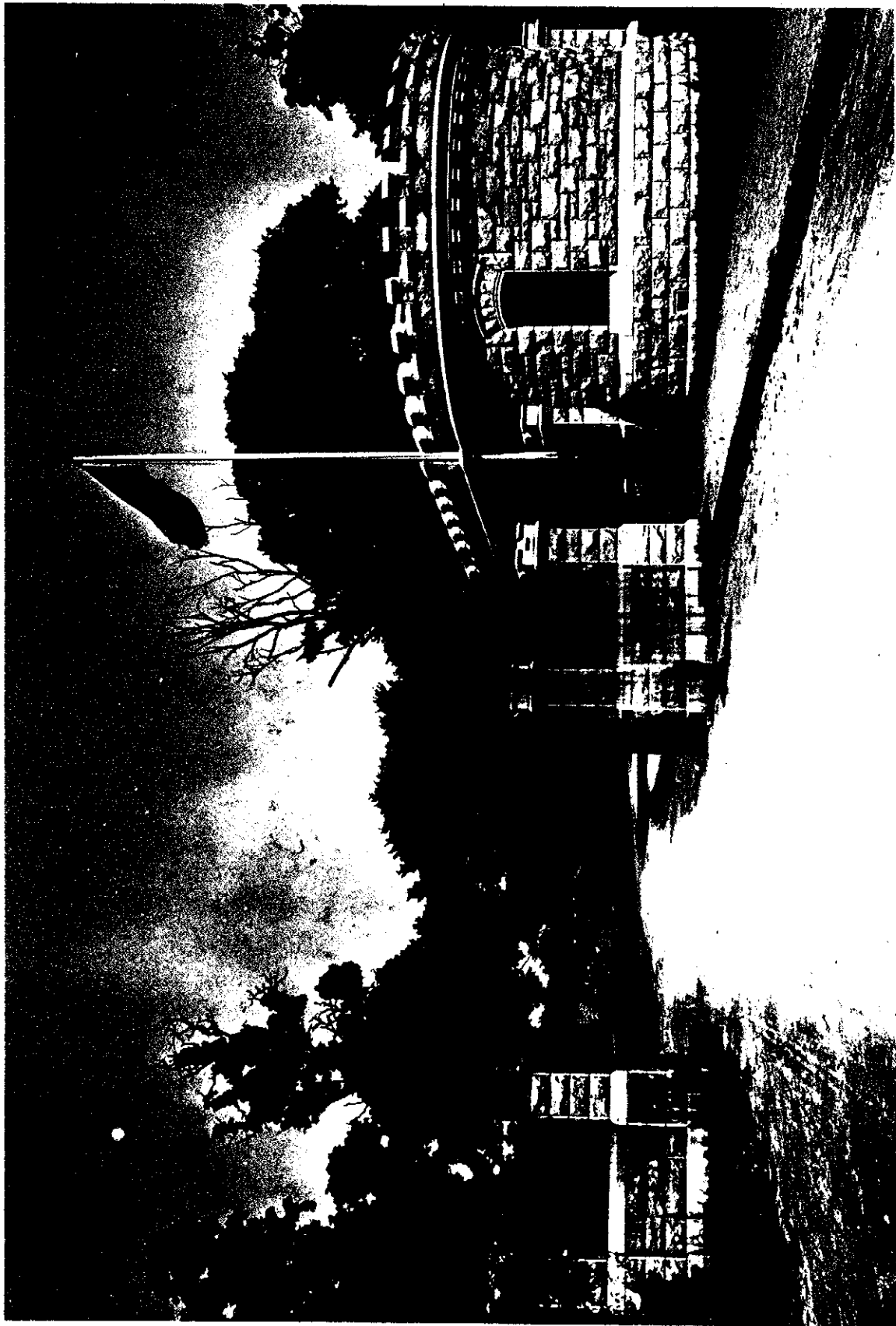
USMA Archives



98. The Branch Exchange (1908), near Buffalo Soldiers Field, before the front extension covered the original Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson facade.

ca. 1909

USMA Archives



99. Designed by Richard Morris Hunt, the old South Gatehouse stood at the southern entrance to the Academy between the 1890s and the 1920s.

ca. 1902

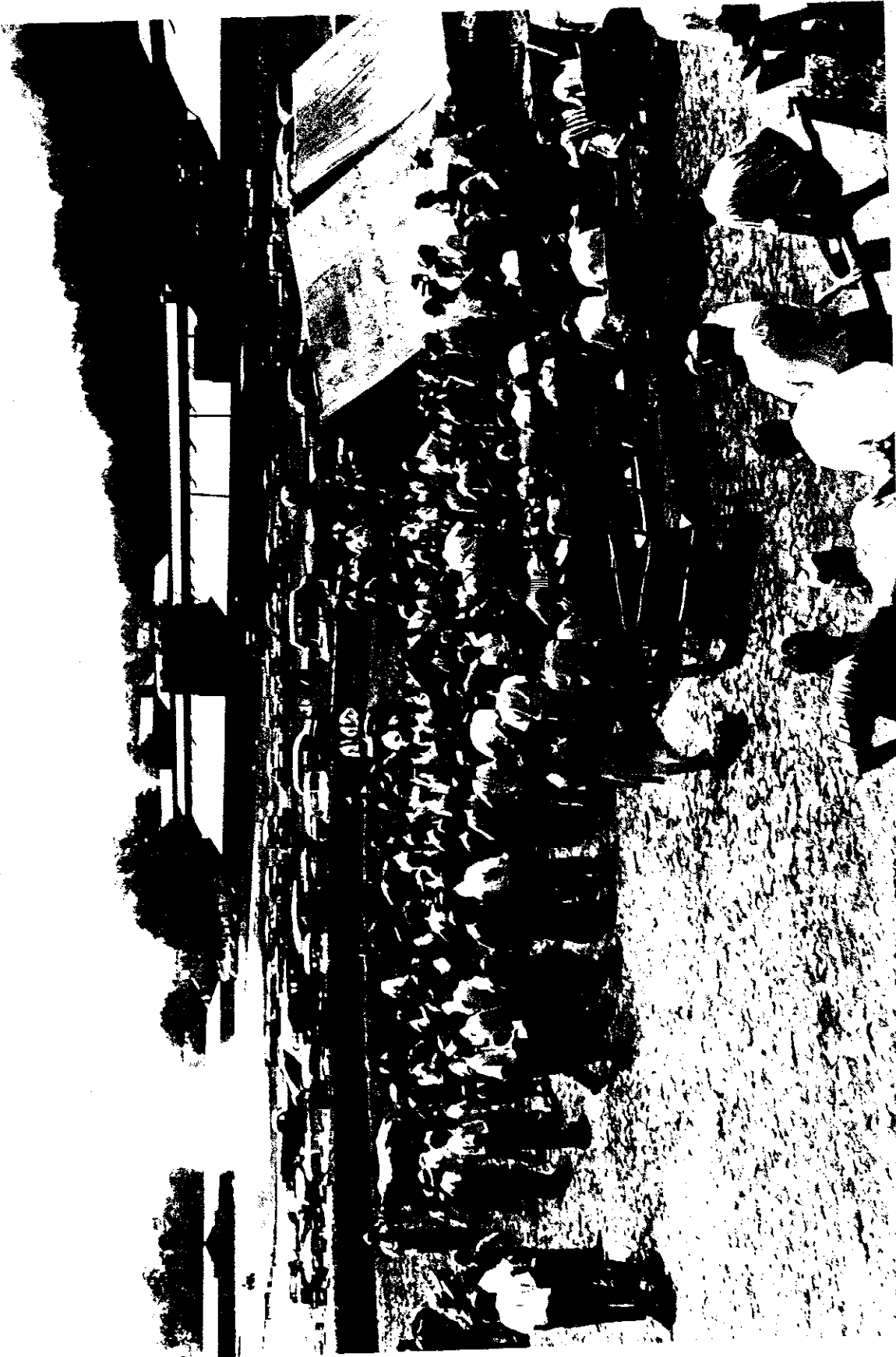
USMA Archives

The term "Buffalo Soldiers Field" was not officially used until 1973 when the area was named in honor of those men of the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments who served here. The term Buffalo Soldier allegedly was given by the Indians to their dark-skinned adversaries, the Black soldiers who comprised these two regiments. Having a long history of fighting Indians after the Civil War and later fighting alongside Colonel Theodore Roosevelt at San Juan Hill, these proven soldiers were selected to assist with cavalry instruction. In 1907, a detachment of the 9th Cavalry Regiment was assigned to West Point, and served until 1931, when they were replaced by the 2nd Squadron of the 10th Cavalry.⁷²

The days when great emphasis was placed on equestrian talents were nearly over by the time this area was developed. The advanced military technology of rapid-fire, long range weaponry demanded that the soldier maintain sufficient cover, and the increased efficiency of mobilization by rail, plane, and motorized vehicle removed the dependence upon the horse as the sole form of rapid deployment. The first decades after the establishment of this area witnessed a weakening influence of equestrian training, culminating in the abandonment of such training by 1947 (illustration #100).

More tangible changes also occurred around the area. Sometime between 1910 and 1928, the Hunt guard house was removed, probably to widen the gate for automobile traffic. By 1936, a new stone gate was erected with funds from the Works Progress Administration.⁷³ In 1951, the guard house from Wilson Gate, which had been built in 1945, was moved to this location. It replaced an older temporary wooden gate house, which was then moved to the 22-caliber outdoor pistol range.⁷⁴

In 1935, a veterinarian facility (#670) was added north of the Branch Exchange.



100. A sign of changing times, in August of 1947 the Academy auctioned-off the majority of its horses, bringing to an end the 100 years during which equestrian training was a major part of cadet life.

1947

USMA Archives

A light-gun shop (#646) and a general storehouse (#648) were erected at the north end of the grouping in 1939 and 1943, respectively. A fire station (#634) was added at the northeastern end of the grouping in 1945.

At present, nearly every building serves a function different from that originally intended. The two former stables serve as an enlisted men's club and a general storehouse with offices. The barracks continue to house enlisted men, yet no longer the Buffalo Soldiers of the 9th and 10th Regiments. The artillery gun shed is now a Visitors Information Center and garage. The light-gun shop, doubled in size in 1919, is a print shop, and the general storehouse is a craft and auto shop. Around 1961, the fire station was remodeled to become the Main Post Office. The Branch Exchange continues as an exchange, but was modified in 1945 by a projecting brick addition, which covered the original facade. The veterinary facility continues to serve its original function.

Despite alterations, additions, and changes in use, Buffalo Soldiers Field continues to appear as a cohesive architectural unit. Designated as a Category II Zone, this area succeeds in impressing the viewer with a definite sense of time and place. The importance of the location of each building, reinforcing a central area, is still intact. The area appears largely the same as when built and is as an excellent example of an early 20th-century Cavalry facility.

Remaining as an architectural reminder of the equestrian aspects of the teaching mission at the Academy, this area maintains a high degree of historical integrity, despite the discontinuation of its original function. A fine example of the work of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson from the 1903 competition, Buffalo Soldiers Field represents an excellent interpretation of the styles used for the handsome officers' quarters designed by that firm throughout the post.

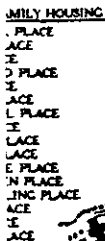
South End Officers' Quarters Area

The area between Buffalo Soldiers Field and the Academic area is a residential area with officers' quarters fronting on Wilson, Cullum and Thayer Roads (illustration #101). Within this zone, one finds quarters of both frame and brick construction. The land was originally part of the Gridley and Kinsley tracts (approximately 300 and 225 acres), which were purchased in 1824 and 1889.

At the northern end of this area stands South Apartments (#1), designed by Cram and Ferguson, which was completed in 1929. Farther south are five frame quarters (#5, 6, 7, 9, 10) built in 1870. (See HABS No. NY-5708-49 for detailed description and history of quarters #7.) Prior to the 1920s, there were several other 19th-century quarters in this area (illustration #102, 103). Quarters #8 is brick and was probably built in 1892. The frame quarters are of vernacular styles, while the brick quarters mirrors two identical buildings along Washington Road designed to standardized Quartermaster plans.

The area across Thayer Road from Quarters #8 and #9 is the location of the old southern gate. This gate featured a gothic frame cottage, built in 1859, and the iron gate, which in 1897 was moved to the cemetery (illustration #104).

Farther south along Wilson Road are Quarters #11, #13, #15, #17, and #19. These are standardized designs of the office of the Quartermaster General, built in 1901. (See HABS No. NY-5708-51 for detailed description and history of quarters #11.) Similar designs can be found on Army installations across the country. At the end of this small group of quarters is a large set of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson brick quarters (#21) built in 1910. (See HABS No. NY-5708-30 for detailed description and history.) Continuing up the hill on Wilson Road are



- 1978

USMA Planning Office (modified)



102. Officers' Quarters #'s 4, 6, and 8 ca. 1870 (right to left). Quarters #6 and #8 were demolished and replaced by Central Apartments during the 1920s.

ca. 1900

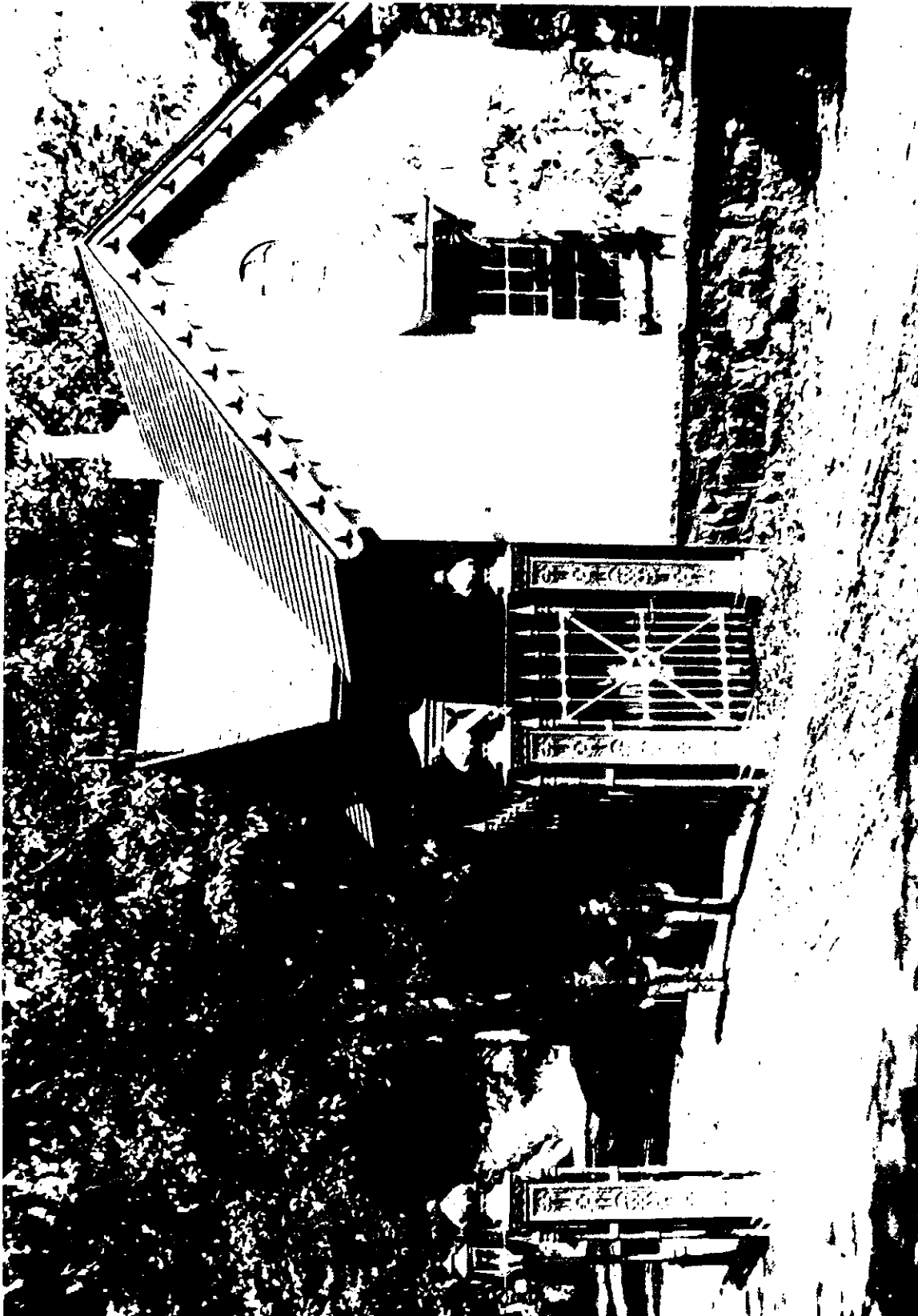
USMA Archives



103. Officers' Quarters originally located along Thayer Road. These were replaced by the Central Apartments in the 1920s.

ca. 1900

USMA Archives



104. Located across from where Quarters #8 stands, this was the southern gatehouse during the mid-19th century.

three sets of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson brick quarters (#42, 45, 48) built in 1908 (See HABS NY-5708-34, NY-5708-35, and NY-5708-36 for detailed description and history) and one 1919 building, intended to reflect the 1908 buildings designed by the office of the West Point Quartermaster (#40). These Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson designs represent an excellent solution to multi-family housing. A necessity on most Army installations, multiple officers' housing has rarely received a design so elegant and satisfactory. Several 1930s and 1940s detached brick garages are located near these buildings.

Below Wilson Road, at Thayer Road, are a number of other quarters. In the center of this group are two 1891 brick quarters (#28, 29) and two 1894 brick quarters (#30, 31) (illustration #105), all of Quartermaster design. These buildings are flanked by one Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson quarters (#25) on the north and two on the south (#32, 34). (See HABS No. NY-5708-31, NY-5708-32, and NY-5708-33 for detailed description and history.)

This area has been designated a Category II Zone due to a combination of positive and negative factors. From an architectural and historical perspective, this area is important as it contains examples of the different types of officers' quarters constructed during the 1870s, 1890s, 1910s, and 1920s, which present a picture of the domestic life of the officers of West Point during these periods. Yet this role as an officers' housing area offers only an indirect relationship to the important historic functions of the teaching and post missions at West Point, adding only minimal additional value to the Academy's major historic themes.

Additional positive values derive from the architectural success of the Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson's housing units which are visually attractive and reflect the general theme of the architects' designs at West Point.



105. Old Officers' Quarters #33. Although this 1890s building was demolished, its original identical neighbors, #28 and #30, are still standing.

ca. 1900

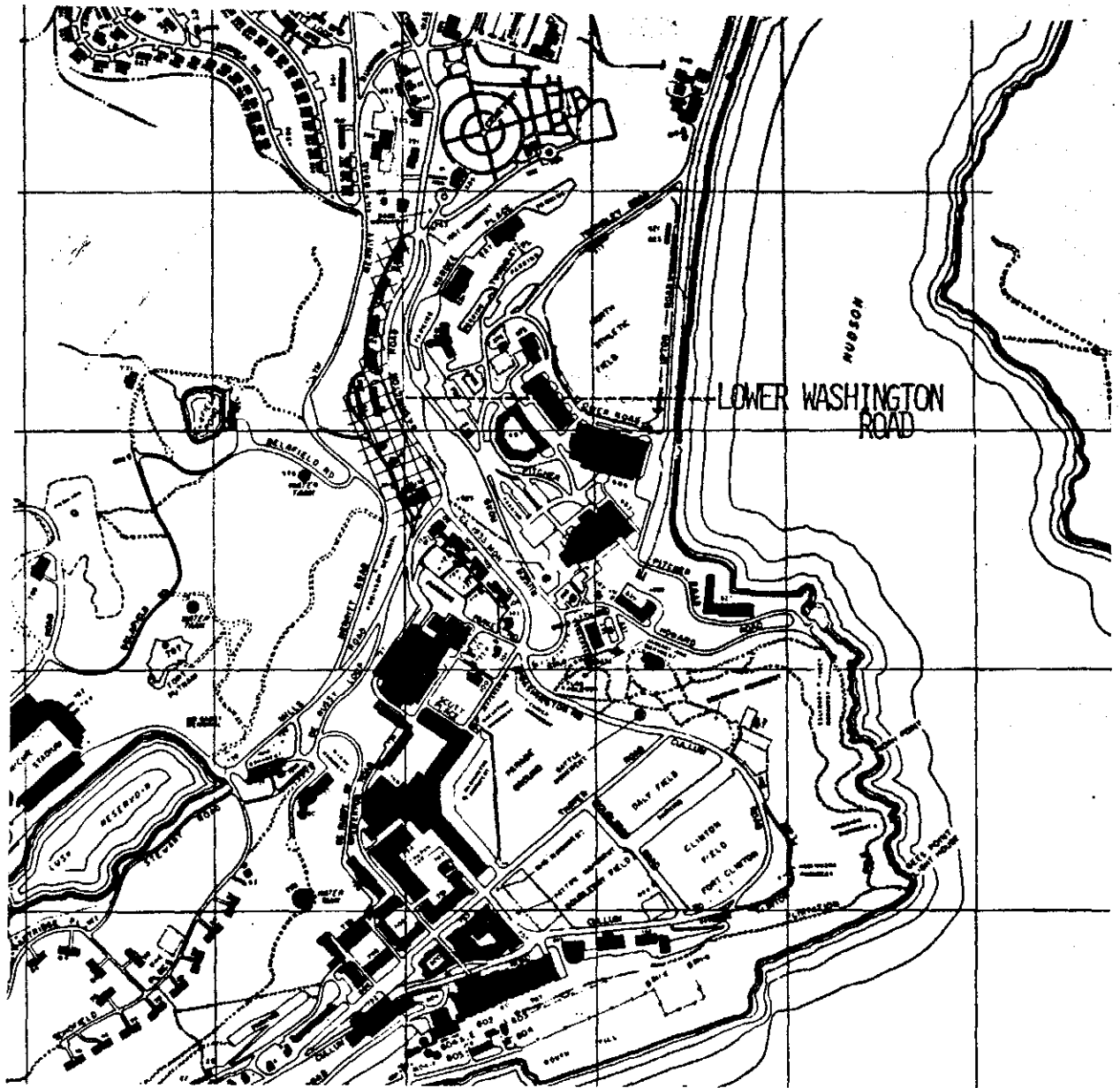
USMA Archives

Lower Washington Road

Beginning at the junction of Mills and Washington Roads and continuing up Washington Road to a point across from the old Cadet Chapel, stand eight sets of Officer's Family Quarters, one church, and a few detached garages (illustration #106). Seven of the eight quarters are brick, one is frame, and the church is granite.

The Catholic Chapel and Rectory (#699) was built by the Roman Catholic Church on West Point land at the southern end of this zone. Opened in 1900, the church was designed by the New York firm of Hines and LaFarge. A new wing was added in the 1930s (illustration #107) and the church was enlarged further, including a remodeled steeple, in 1960. Stone used for the latter enlargement came from the old Observatory near Lusk Reservoir. Having obtained permission to build a church at West Point after several decades of effort, the church's permit was revoked and then approved again just prior to the turn of the century. Even upon final approval, the Academy reserved review authority over the architect's design for the church.⁷⁵

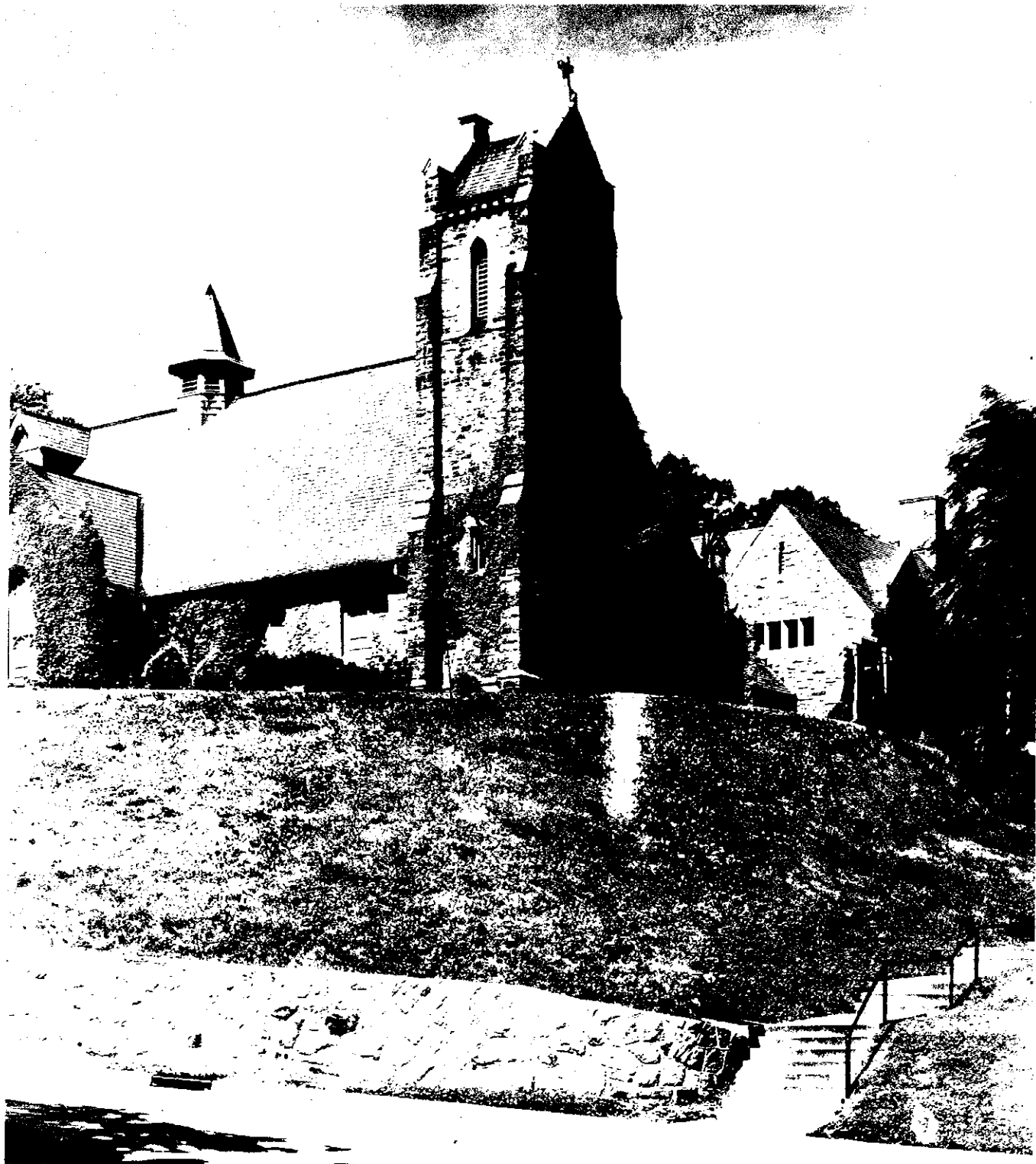
At the northern extreme of this area sits an interesting white frame building (#124). An example of quarters for the numerous civilian personnel at West Point, this quarters was built in 1868 (illustration #108). Records indicate that the building cost approximately \$10,500, which came from the Cadet Quartermaster Department Fund. According to an 1889 account, the east end was leased by a cutter employed in the clothing branch of the Cadet Quartermaster Department, and the western end was leased to the lessee of the public stables, both for a total of \$200.00 per year.⁷⁶



106. Location map showing the Lower Washington Road area, as defined by the HABS Historic Structures Inventory.

1978

USMA Planning Office (modified)



107. The Roman Catholic Chapel along Washington Road. Designed by Hines and LaFarge at the turn of the 20th century, this building received a new Rectory in the 1930s, and a new steeple in 1960.

ca. 1938

USMA Archives



108. Although the location of this building has not been determined, it is similar to Quarters #124 which was built for civilians at the northern end of the Lower Washington Road area in the 1860s.

ca. 1890

USMA Archives

Among the buildings located between these end buildings are five sets of Tudor brick Officer's Quarters, four of which (#116, 118, 120, 122) were designed by Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson and built in 1909. (See HABS No. NY-5708-37, NY-5708-38, NY-5708-39, and NY-5808-40 for detailed description and history.) The fifth quarters (#114) was designed by the Academy Quartermaster Department and built in 1919 as a simplified version of the Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson designs mentioned above.

To the south of the 1919 quarters are two, of an original group of three, 1892 quarters (#112 and #113) (the third of which was destroyed by fire in the 1960s). The two brick quarters remaining feature a three-story projecting bay, topped by an open balcony and an interesting "zippered brick" detailing where the walls meet each other on the projecting octagonal bay. The standardized design for these brick buildings was utilized in the South End Officers' Quarters area in at least two instances, only one of which remains today (#8).

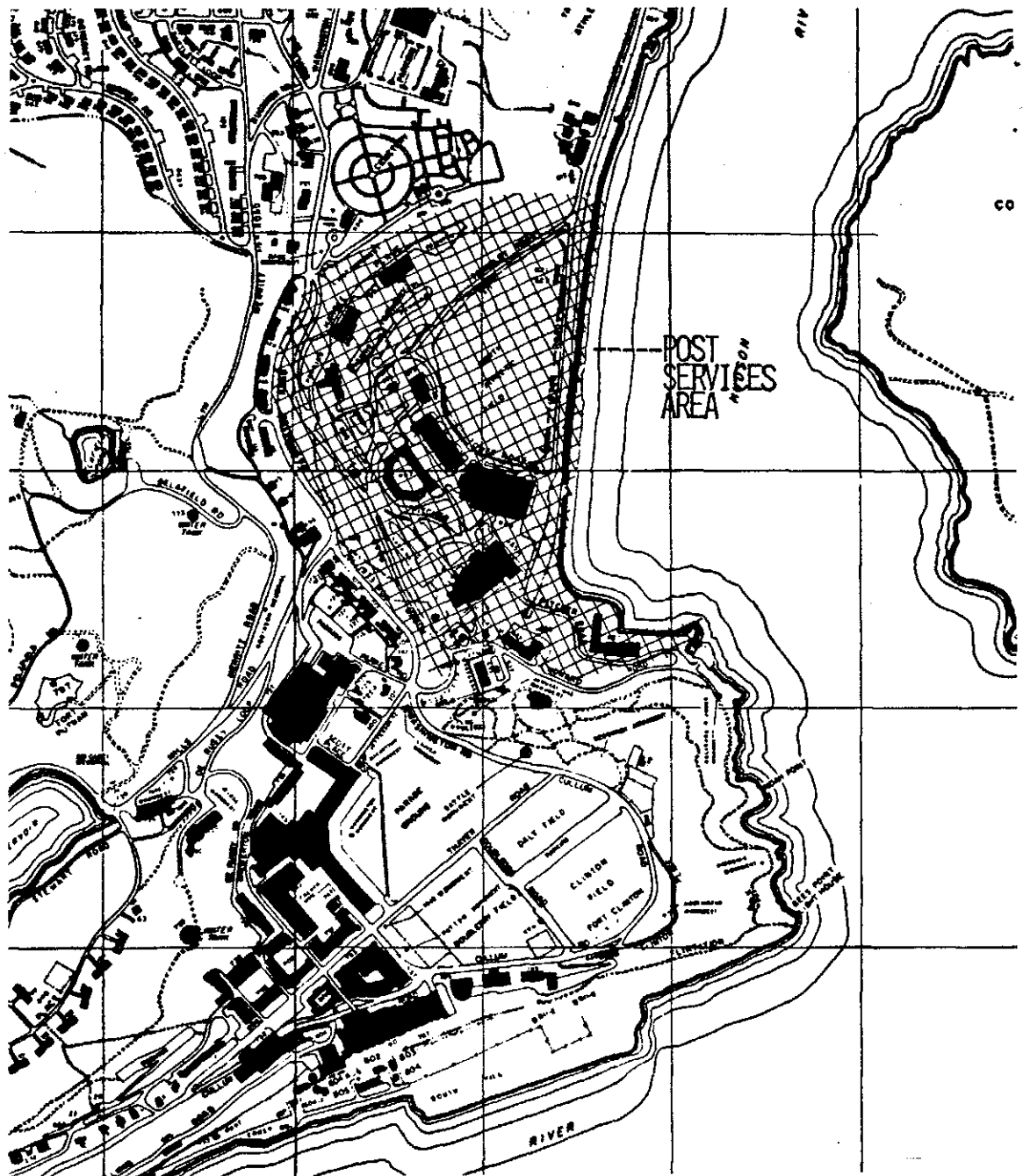
The Lower Washington Road area is designated as a Category II Zone. Historically, the area served as one of two bridges between the Academic area to the south and the Enlisted Men's area to the north (the other bridge being Ruger Road, which runs through the Post Services area below Washington Road).

Apparently an extension of the early 19th-century Professors Row to the south, this area acquired its present appearance during the few decades before and after the turn of the century, at the same time that the enlisted men's area was expanding. If it is true that an effort was made to protect the cadets from the influences of the enlisted men (see section on the Early Enlisted Men's area) then this area surely served as a buffer zone between the two.

Post Services Area

Situated northwest of the Academic area, this area sits on the declining slope which leads from the Plain's northwestern end to the Hudson River. The slope which drops from the cemetery serves as the western border; the slope to the north of Washington Road serves as the southern border; the fall line of Howard Road from the Plain to the North Dock forms the eastern border; and the shoreline and railroad causeway complete the area's north border (illustration #109).

This area was originally known as Camptown, named after William Camp, a man who lived in a barn in this area until his death in 1829.⁷⁷ The northern boundary has only existed since the 1880s, when a railroad was tunneled under the Plain and extended north along the present causeway. Shortly thereafter, the area west of the causeway was infilled, creating the land now used for an athletic field. Historically, a number of buildings of various styles have been located here. This stylistic confusion was inevitable for an area whose purpose is, and always has been, to accommodate the numerous service functions necessary for the operation of both the Academic and Post missions. The most visible buildings presently located in this area are large brick structures designed during this century. Most of the buildings original to the area were torn down during the expansion programs of the 1930s and early 1970s. The precise location of the earlier buildings may be suggested best in context with what replaced them. Therefore, a discussion of the extant buildings will come first, followed by a discussion of the original buildings presented in order of location rather than chronology. This approach is taken to allow a clearer picture of this historically crowded and visually complex area.



109. Location map showing the Post Services area, as defined by the HABS Historic Structures Inventory.

1978

USMA Planning Office (modified)

Approaching this area from the Plain, one cannot help but notice Eisenhower Hall (#695), the Cadet Activity Center. The building's solid brick mass obstructs one of the primary views of the Hudson River. Built in 1974, this is the newest building in the Services area.

Farther west is the Commissary and Facility Engineers Facility (#667), built in 1935. A West Point Quartermaster design, this semi-octagonal structure features a central tower on the front (south) side. This and numerous other major buildings at West Point bear the influence of Edwin V. Dunstan, Quartermaster at West Point during the 1930s. These red brick structures are simplified and economical adaptations of the Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson style for West Point. While attractive and generally harmonious with their sites, the Dunstan buildings fall short of the crispness of the Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson designs.

To the north is the old Rifle and Pistol Range Building (#665), and farther east is the Field House (#663), which was designed by Paul P. Cret. These buildings were built in 1938 and 1937, respectively. A second Cret-designed building, the 1937 Ordnance and Engineering Laboratory, is across from the 19th-century Ordnance Compound (#639). Each of these buildings is faced with red brick, the standard building material for the Post Services area during the 1930s, and do not reflect the type of architecture for which Cret is most well-known.

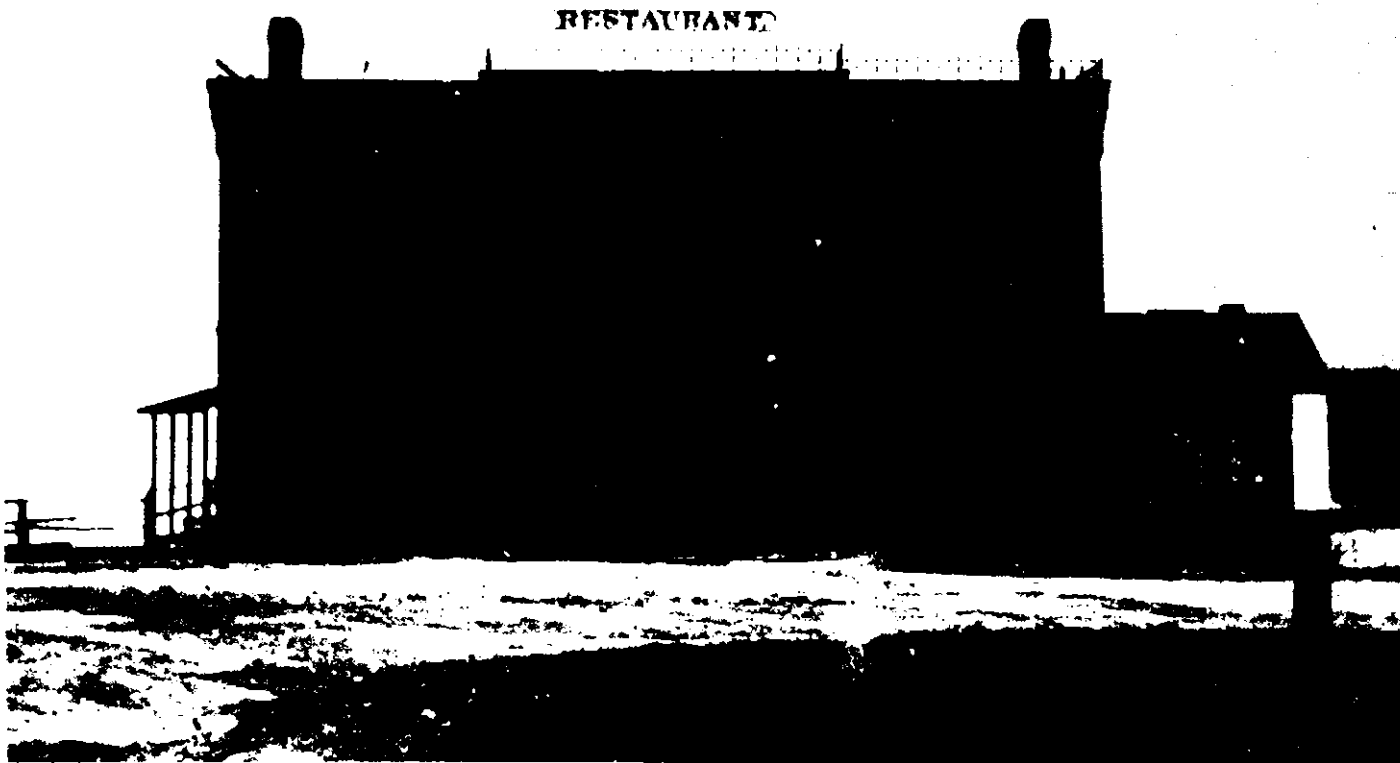
A set of buildings designed as a group is located on the slope below the cemetery. The Military Police Barracks (#681), the old Service Detachment Barracks (#685), and the Auxiliary Barracks (#687), designed by Dunstan, follow in design and construction Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson's Buffalo Soldiers Field Barracks. The two end buildings were built in 1935 and the center one in 1939.

Additional 20th-century structures include the frame storehouse (#627) near the north dock, built in 1943, and the grandstand (#617) at the North Athletic Field, built in 1939.

Only a few structures in this area survive from the 19th century; most of the early buildings having been demolished as recently as 1970. South of Eisenhower Hall is a Gothic Revival cottage (#146) built in 1858. This building was fictionalized in the movie, "The Long Gray Line," as the quarters of the old soldier, Marty Mayer. Strongly reminiscent of the Gothic cottages of A. J. Davis, who designed many such buildings in this region, the building features pointed-arch windows with label molds, a steeply pitched gable roof and a smaller cross gable with ornamental bargeboards. (See HABS No. NY-5708-16 for a detailed description and history.)

Farther east, along Howard Road, is the old Cadet Restaurant (#147), also known as the Confectionery, the Boodlers, or Retiring House. Built in 1878 as a one-story brick confectionery, the building was remodeled to its present appearance in 1889 (illustration #110).⁷⁸ Unfortunately, no photographs have been found which clearly show the original condition. The Italianate-style building presently features segmentally-arched windows with hood molds, a projecting central section, and a flat roof. Currently, the building serves as a community center. (See HABS No. NY-5708-19 for detailed history and description.)

Another early building is the old Bandmaster's Quarters (#144), built in 1873, which still stands south of the commissary (illustration #111).⁷⁹ The Bandmaster, originally a civilian, was quartered only yards from the Band Barracks, which was located on the site of the Eisenhower Hall parking lot.



110. The old Cadet Restaurant building has been in the Post Services area performing various services for the cadets since the 1880s.

ca. 1900

USMA Archives



111. The old Bandmaster's Quarters built on this site in 1873 still stands.

ca. 1900

USMA Archives

Only two other early buildings survive in this area. The old Pontoon Shed (#673), built in the 1850s, served as a Pontoon Shed and Commissary in 1889, a Commissary in 1930, and an enlisted men's gymnasium in the 1940s and 1950s.⁸⁰ Originally along the water, the Pontoon Shed's usefulness was decreased when the area north of it was land-filled. The other building is the old Main Guard House (#675) built in 1850 (illustration #112). This 130-year-old building also served as an electrician's shop.⁸¹ These buildings, overlooked by most historians, rank among West Point's oldest remaining structures.

The remainder of this analysis of the Post Services area will consist of a discussion of the historic use of this area as demonstrated through the various buildings which were once located here (illustration #113).

We shall begin at the North Dock, much as one might have approached West Point during most of the 19th century (illustration #114). The exact date of erection of the dock is uncertain. As with the south dock, the construction and precise location of something as vulnerable as a dock is likely to change over the years. We do know that during the Revolutionary War a dock was maintained at Gee's Point, at the northeast edge of the Academic area. The earliest account of a dock near the present site dates to 1814.⁸² Additional records indicate that the "north wharf" was rebuilt in 1870 and repaired in 1888.⁸³ While the south dock was the debarking area for the majority of passengers, it was the north dock which received the greater part of the supplies arriving by boat, such as coal, firewood, hay, lumber, brick, and all heavy ordnance.⁸⁴ In 1889, the dock contained about 4,500 square feet and featured an elevated coal handling cable railway, which extended to each of the coal sheds which dotted the slope of the Services area. This railway was described as having seventy-three trestles, varying from two feet to thirty-six feet in height.⁸⁵ By 1897, the



112. Built in the 1850s, the old Main Guard House was tucked away along a slope in the Post Services area. It is one of the oldest buildings at West Point.

ca. 1900

USMA Archives



113. The Post Services area, as seen from the cemetery.

ca. 1880

USMA Archives



114. The excursion boat "Alexander Hamilton" passes North Dock.

- ca. 1900

USMA Archives

Superintendent reported that the old surface cable railway had been replaced by a suspension cableway, which led in a straight line from the coal sheds at the top of the hill to a new dock constructed a short distance east of the old north dock.⁸⁶

To the west of the dock was the seacoast battery used by the cadets for gunnery practice (illustration #115). One interesting story about the seacoast battery is related in a letter dated June 7, 1887, from a Mr. Platt, the superintendent of the Hudson River Ore and Coal Company, across the river, in Cold Springs.⁸⁷ Mr. Platt reported that at around 5:30 pm on the previous day, an eight inch, 182 pound shell flew overhead and landed near a few of his employees. In an apologetic letter, the Superintendent of West Point stated that all firing would be discontinued until it was proven safe, and that he had previously thought such a long distance shot was impossible (illustration #116).

Farther west is the northern entrance to the railway tunnel, which was placed under the Plain during the 1880s.

Near the present site of the Ordnance and Engineering Laboratory (#639) stood the gas works, which was established in 1857. A group of utilitarian structures, the gas works included a coal shed, which was built in 1873, and measured 30'x 104' with a 500-ton capacity, and a round tank, which was still extant through the late 1890s (illustration #117).⁸⁸

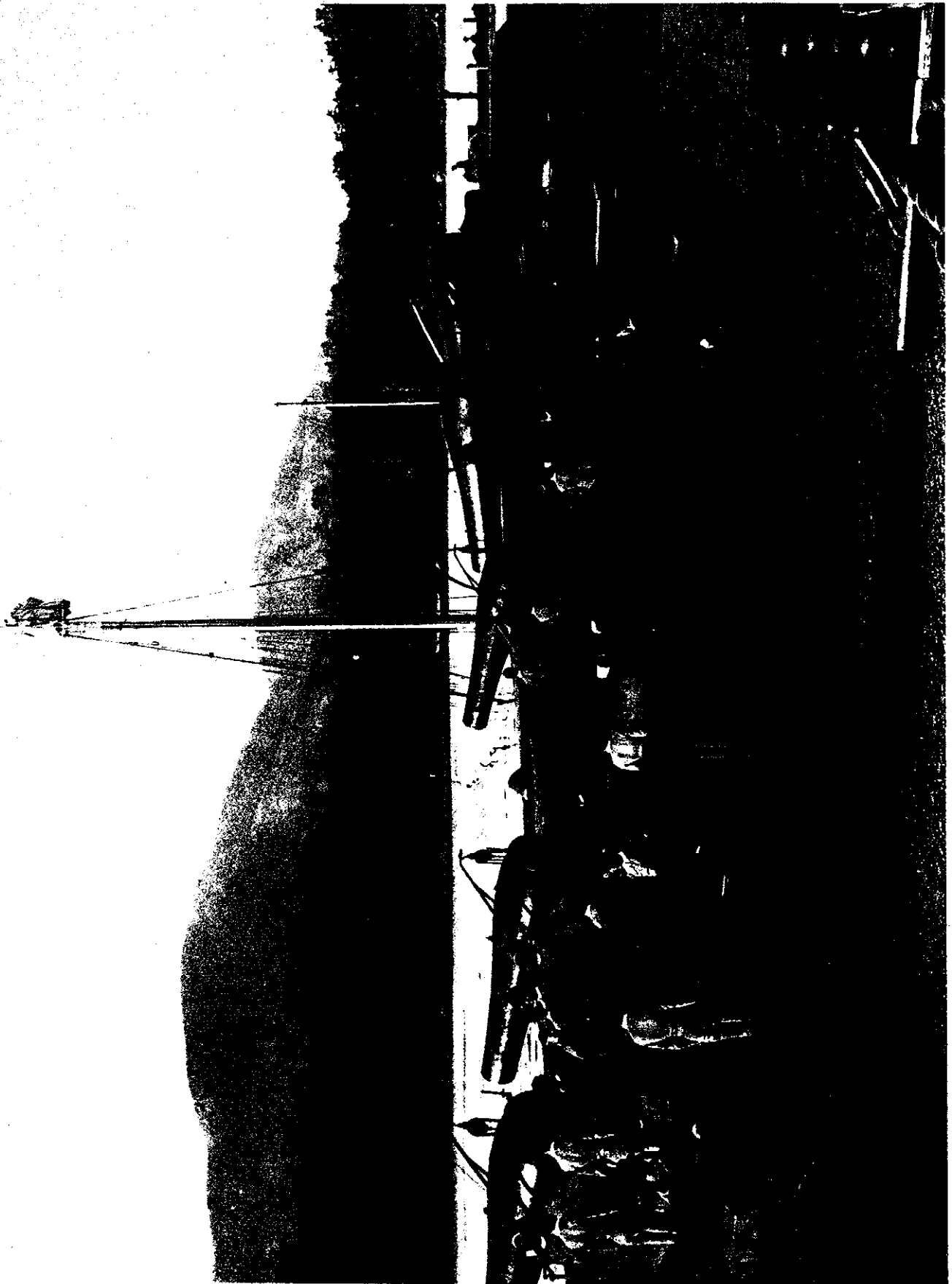
To the west of the Gothic cottage mentioned earlier (#146) was another Gothic cottage of frame construction which stood until the early 1970s. Finished in late May of 1850, it was occupied by Postmistress Berard and was used as her quarters and as the Academy post office (illustration #118).⁸⁹



115. The North Dock and the Sea-Coast Battery.

ca. 1860

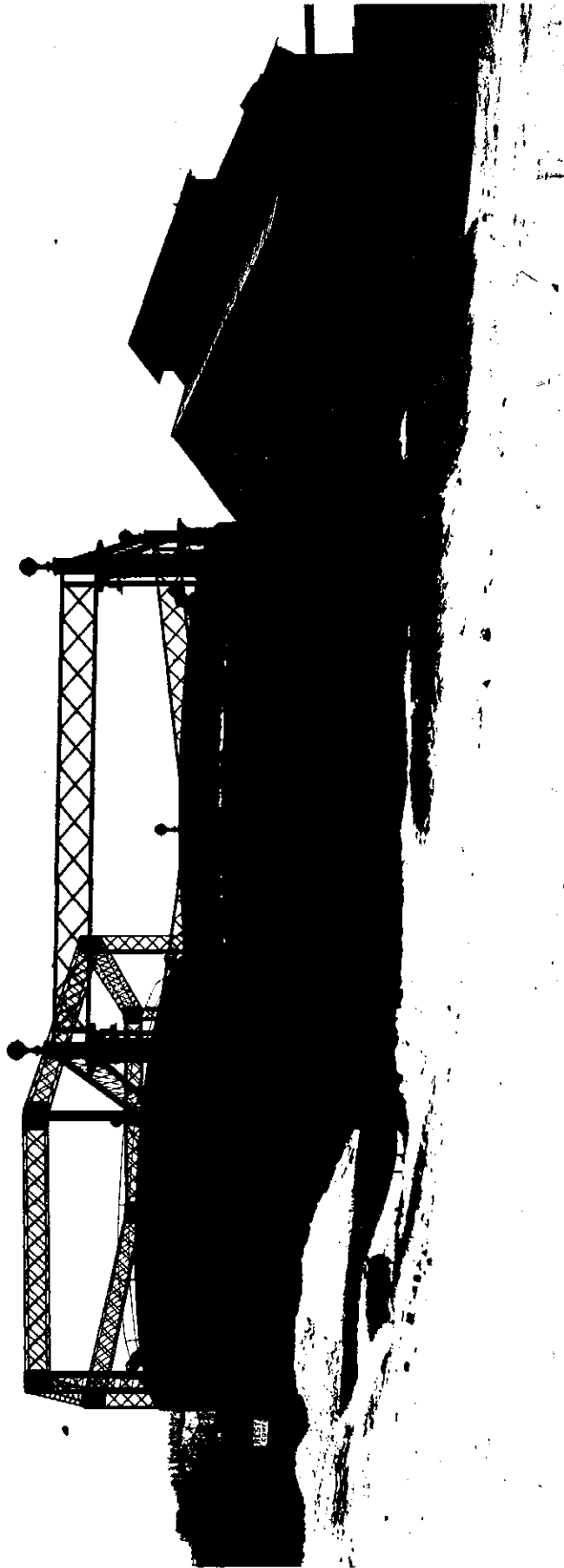
USMA Archives



116. The Sea-Coast Battery near North Dock.

ca. 1880

USMA Archives



117. The Gas Works which stood on the site north of the Ordnance Compound during the last half of the 19th century.

ca. 1890

USMA Archives



118. The 1850s cottage used as Post Office and quarters for the Postmaster or mistress. This building was demolished around 1970 to make room for Eisenhower Hall, the new Cadet Activities Center. Note the cable car to the right which was part of the Academy's coal delivery system.

ca. 1910

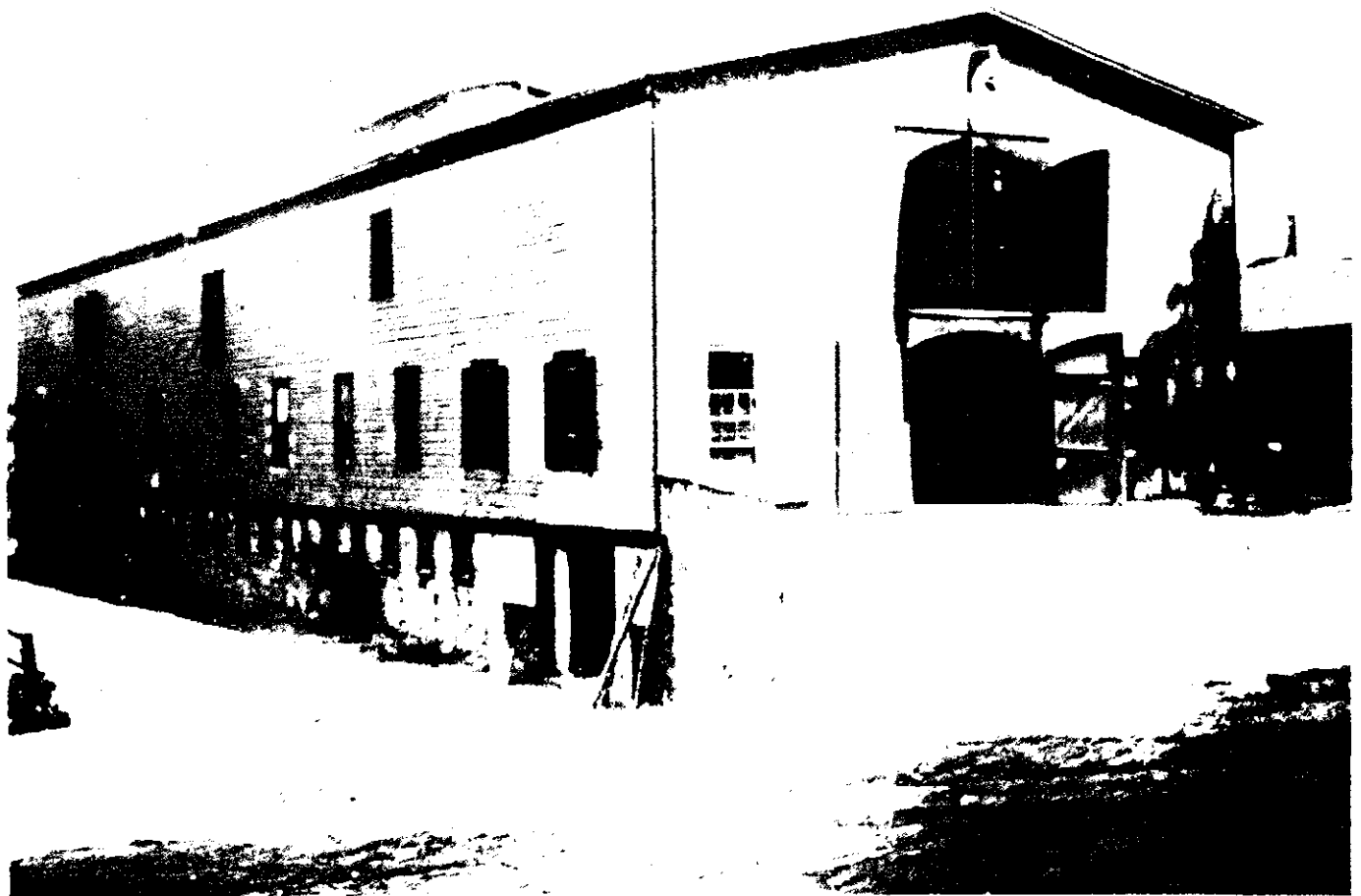
USMA Archives

North of the two Gothic cottages were a number of more utilitarian structures (illustration #119, 120). A stone coal shed, measuring 150'x 41' with a capacity of 1,750 tons, was erected in 1873 for the Quartermaster's Department. A one-story stone stable, measuring 155'x 23', plus a one-story frame shed, 14'x 31', was erected at an unknown date for the public carrier (taxi service), and included stalls for twenty-one horses.⁹⁰

Much later, but in this same vicinity of the Post Services area, a seaplane hangar and ramp were erected by 1926. Realizing the need to familiarize the cadets with the airplane, an amphibious aircraft was used on this riverfront section east of the railroad tunnel.⁹¹ This hangar served as a reminder of early aviation at West Point until it was removed after the 1960s.

Farther west, beginning with the area now occupied by Eisenhower Hall, was another grouping of service-related buildings (illustration #121). The largest of this group was the old Band Barracks, built in 1872 or 1873. This three-story brick building formed three sides of a quadrangle (illustration #122). With eighty rooms, the barracks housed both single and married enlisted men.⁹² The eclectic design featured a hipped roof, double segmental-arched windows with hood molds, two crenelated pavilions, two gabled pavilions, and a central cross gable topped by a square belfry. It was demolished around 1970 in preparation for the construction of Eisenhower Hall.

Directly to the east was a row of three buildings.⁹³ The southernmost building was the old Soldiers' Chapel, erected in 1856. The basement of this frame building served as a school for the children of enlisted men during the 1860s. The Chapel also contained a band practice room (illustration #123).⁹⁴ Farther



119. Quatermaster Stable #1, dates of construction and demolition unknown.

ca. 1900

USMA Archives



120. A rarely photographed part of the Academy, the Post Services area was crowded with utilitarian structures. At right is the rear of the Cadet Restaurant, at lower center is Quartermaster Stable #2, at mid-center is the Gas Works, and the old West Point Hotel is visible at upper center.



121. The Post Services area, looking northwest, showing (left to right): the Ordnance Compound, the Gas Works, the Elevated Coal Railway, the Artillery, Cavalry and Engineering Barracks, all of which were built in the mid-19th century.

ca. 1890

USMA Archives



122. One of the largest buildings ever built in the Post Services area, the old Band Barracks was built in the 1870s. It was demolished around 1970 to make room for the new Cadet Activities Center, Eisenhower Hall.

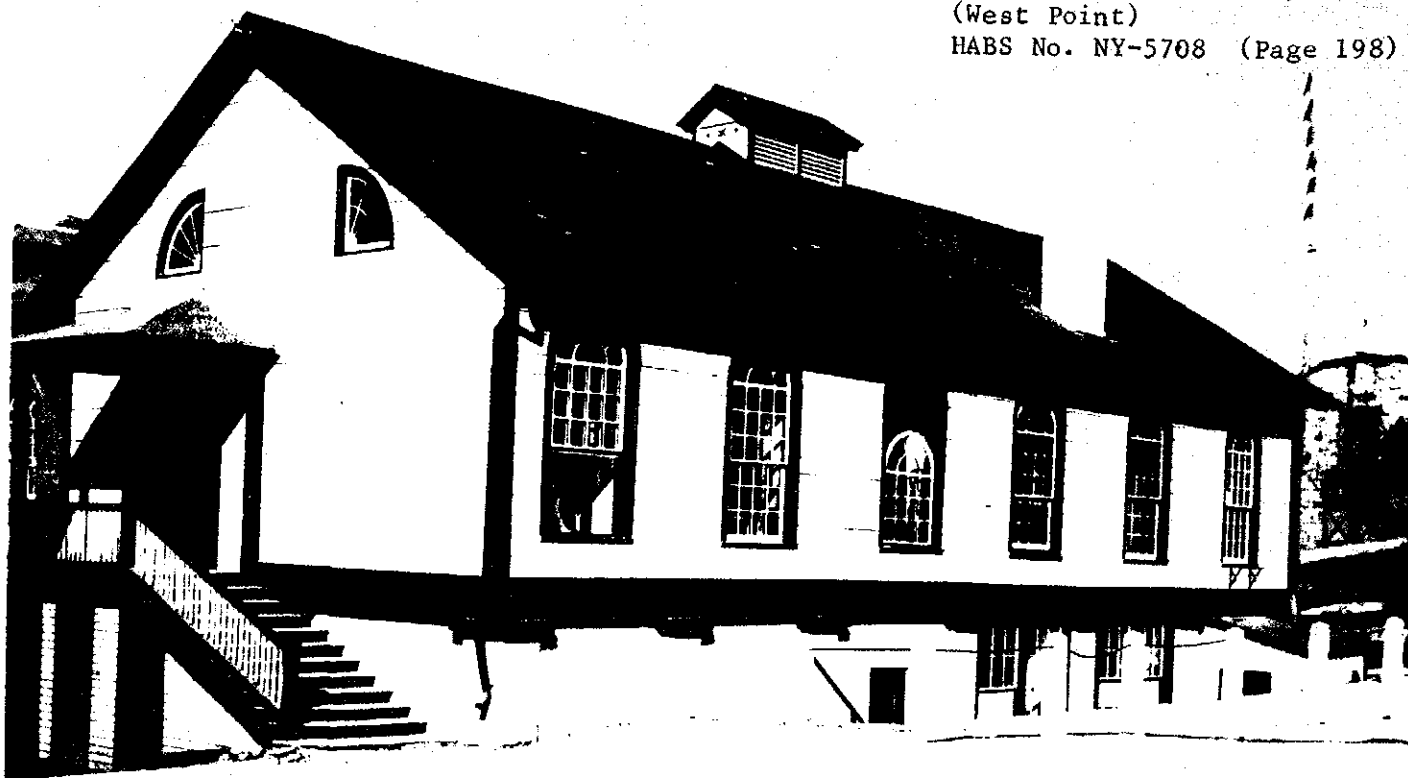
ca. 1880

USMA Archives

north was the old Artillery Barracks erected in 1858. The two-and-a-half-story building contained eight rooms and quartered thirty-five enlisted men during the 1880s. At the north end of this small grouping stood the brick two-and-a-half-story Cavalry Barracks (illustration #124). Built in 1857, this building contained twelve rooms with accommodations for forty men. Although a Riding Hall and stable had been established east of the Plain at about the same time that these barracks were constructed, it was not until 1892 that a new Cavalry Barracks was built beside the Riding Hall and Stable, saving the long walk across the Plain from barracks to stable.⁹⁵ The old Artillery and Cavalry Barracks remained until they were demolished in the early 1970s to make way for the parking area west of Eisenhower Hall.

Farther north, on the site presently occupied by the Field House, stood the original 1852 Soldiers' Hospital. According to an 1854 description, the two-story brick building housed a large ward, dispensary and steward's room on the first floor; three wards on the second floor; and a kitchen and attendant's quarters in the basement.⁹⁶ This building, with a veranda on one side, was converted to a service detachment barracks after the hospital moved to its new location in 1892. The date of demolition is believed to have been shortly after the turn of the century (illustration #125).

A few more Quartermaster Department buildings stood nearby. In 1870, a 140'x 40', two-story frame stable was erected near the Cavalry Barracks. In 1883, a 25' x 29', one-story frame grainary was erected near that same location. A two-story brick Quartermaster shop, measuring 127'x 30', with a 45'x 24' north wing, was built in 1888. Finally, a simple two-story frame building, measuring 24'x 44', was erected in 1843 on a site north of Ruger Road. This had been known as the Trader's Store and the old Meat Market (illustration #126).⁹⁷



123. Built in the 1850s, this building served as the Soldiers' Chapel. Its basement was used as a school for soldiers' children. It was demolished shortly after the turn of the 20th century.

ca. 1900

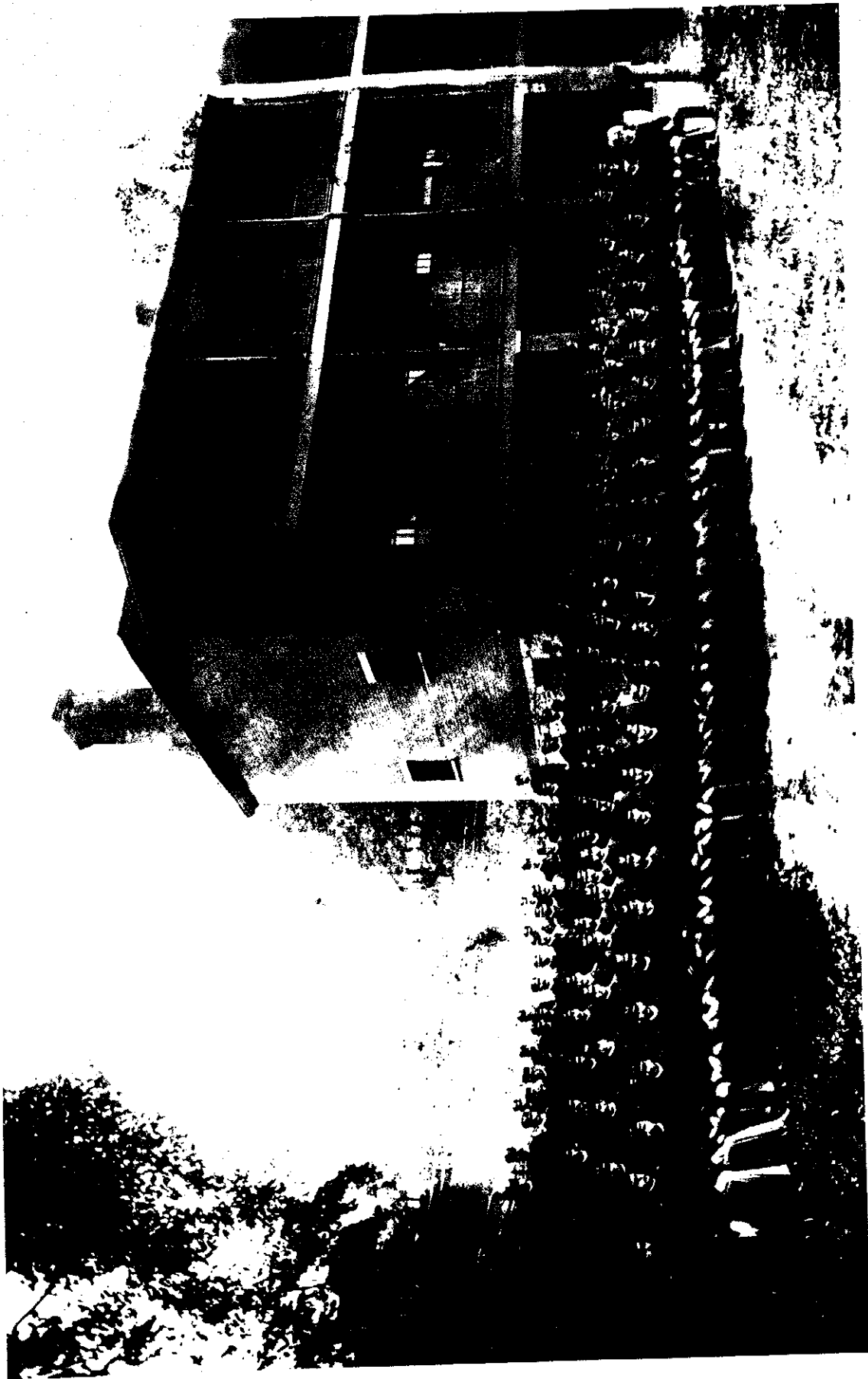
USMA Archives



124. The old Artillery and Cavalry Barracks (left to right) were erected in the 1850s. Their location in the Post Services area reflects the effort to locate the enlisted men away from the cadet population.

ca. 1870

USMA Archives



125. The Army Service Detachment standing in front of the building which served as the Soldiers' Hospital from the 1850s to the 1890s. The Army Service Detachment was quartered here from the 1890s until sometime after the early 1900s, when the building was demolished.

ca. 1903

USMA Archives

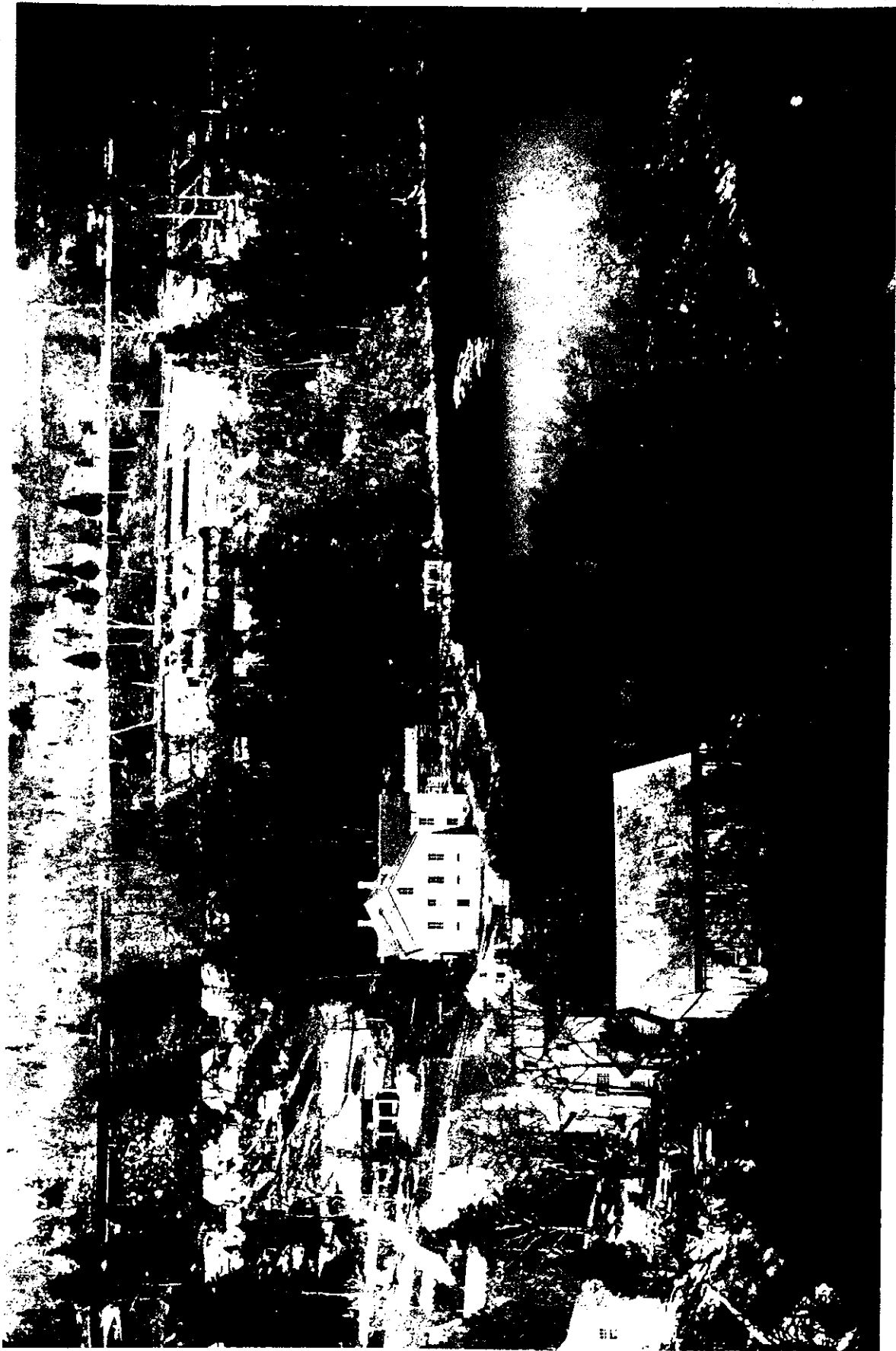


126. The Post Meat Market, erected in the Post Services area in 1843. The date of demolition is unknown. The Band Barracks is shown at right.

Toward the western part of this zone stood several other buildings. The old Pontoon Shed (#673) originally stood on the shore line, until the infilling of the area west of the Railroad causeway moved the shore line farther north (illustration #127). Farther uphill, to the south, stands the old Main Guard House (#675). Still farther uphill, near the site of the present Commissary's western parking area, stood the old Engineers Barracks, built in 1858, (illustration #128) which was a large two-and-a-half story brick building, measuring 100'x 43' and featuring handsome round-arched windows. The building quartered seventy-five enlisted men (illustration #129).⁹⁸ A one-story frame stable, with eight stalls and a loft, stood nearby for the engineers' horses.

On the hill near the present Military Police Barracks (#681) stood a number of buildings, including the Cadet laundry and the old Post Bakery. Both of these probably were built in the 1850s. The laundry was originally 113'x 27' and later was expanded to 152'x 27' (illustration #130).⁹⁹ The laundry facility was relocated to the south end of the post in 1919, and the old building was used as barracks for the Coast Artillery Corps and the Quartermaster Company until it was torn down in the 1930s. The old Post Bakery was a one-story brick building which received additions in 1889.¹⁰⁰ This building also probably was torn down in the 1930s when the Dunstan-designed buildings (#681, 685, 687) were constructed.

The designation of this as a Category III Zone stems from two reasons. The first reason is that this topographical depression was historically utilized for the many service functions necessary to operate the Post and Academy missions. Although less glamorous than the Academic area, the role of this area was vital to the day to day operations of the Academy.



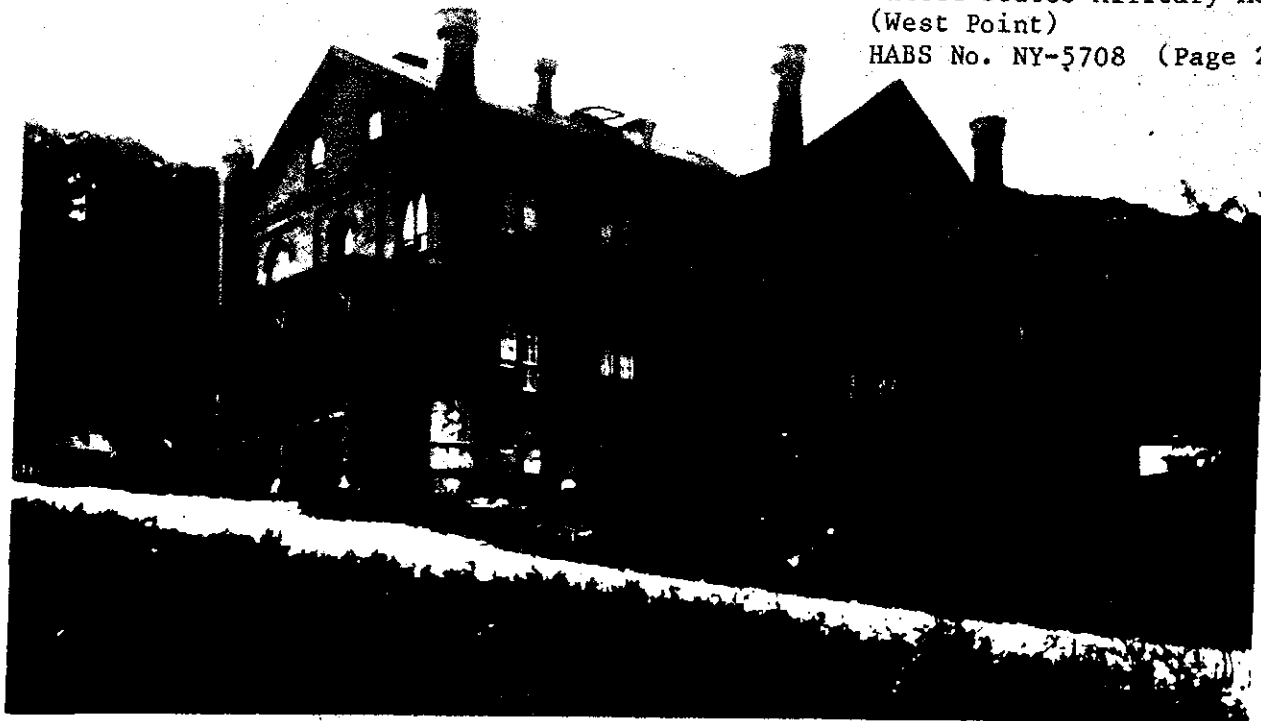
127. The Post Services area, looking northwest. The old 1850s Pontoon Shed at center, the old 1850s Guard House at center-left, and a row of 1860s soldiers' quarters beginning at top left. Note that the landfill of this area has not yet been undertaken.



128. Cadet target practice along what is now North Athletic Field, showing the Post Services area in the background, including the Engineers Barracks.

ca. 1918

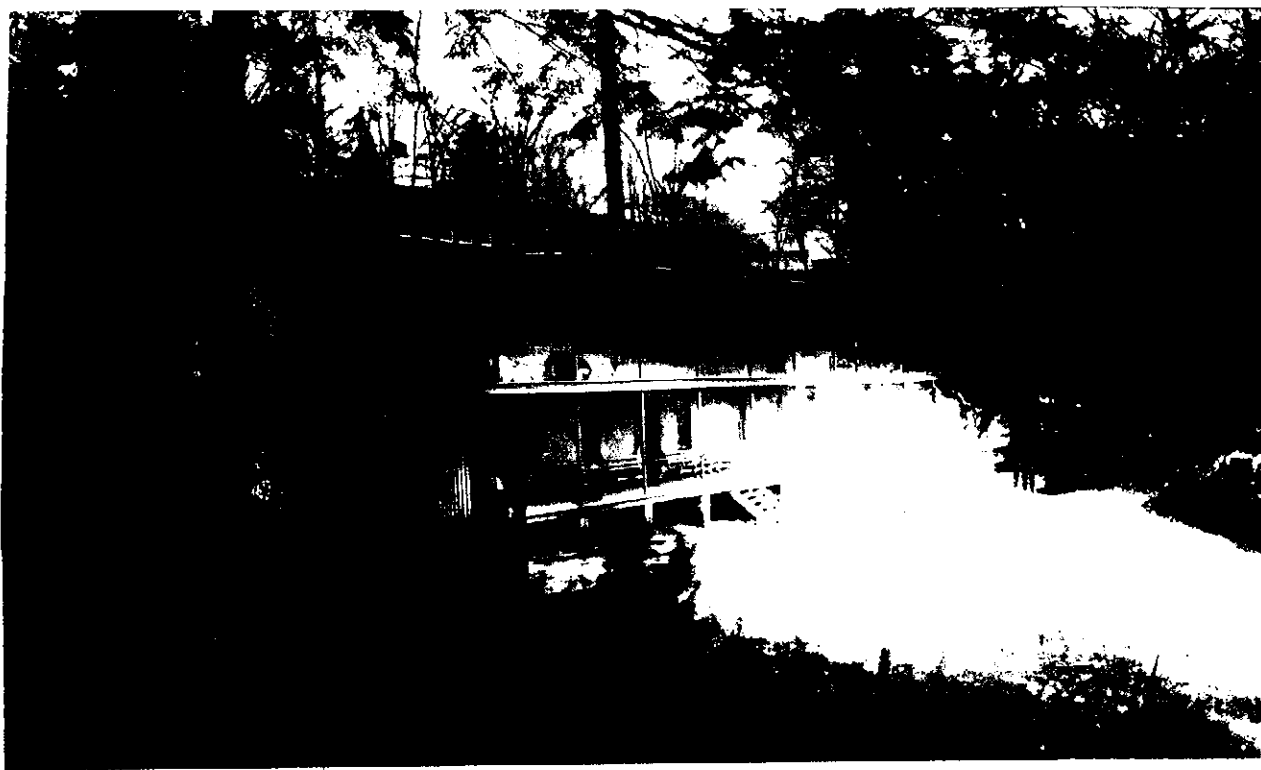
USMA Archives



129. Another 1850s building, the Engineers Barracks was demolished at some point after the 1930s.

ca. 1900

USMA Archives



130. The old Cadet Laundry Building was built in the 1850s. In 1919 the Laundry facility was relocated north of Buffalo Soldiers Field. This building was used as barracks for the Coast Artillery Corps and the Quartermaster Company until it was torn down in the 1930s.

ca. 1890

USMA Archives

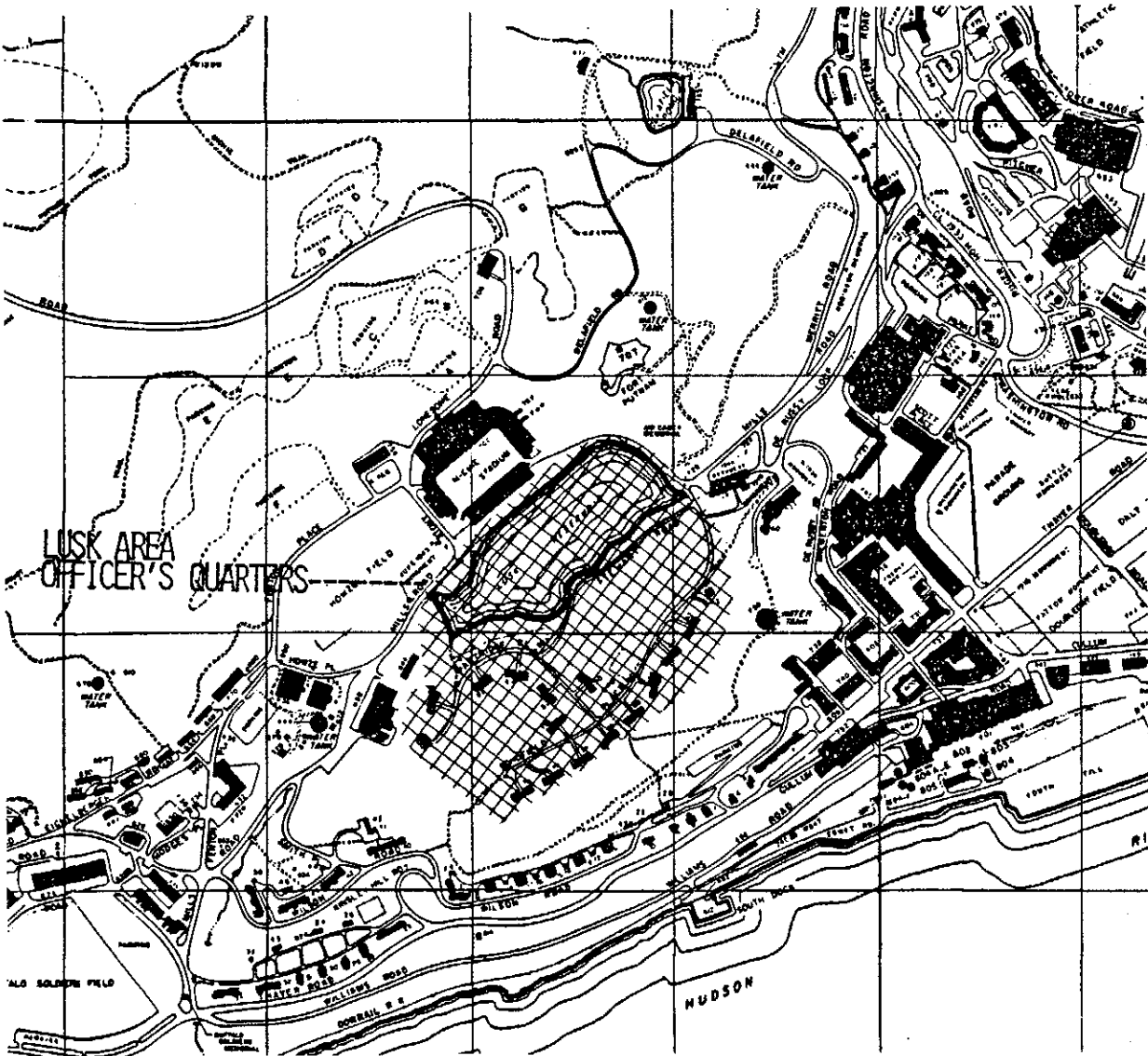
During the early 19th century, this area housed most of the enlisted personnel in crude quarters. Beginning with the middle of the century, a great number of service functions operated out of this area. Post personnel lived here, ate here, worked here, and worshipped here. Even today, although most of the buildings are new, many of the service functions of the Post and Academy missions operate out of this area. The convenience of placing such functional buildings out of sight from the Plain, in a natural hollow, has been utilized historically and in recent times.

The second factor influencing this zone designation is the negative value of the architecture of the many 20th-century structures which now fill the area. At best these large buildings may be described as functional. They reflect no clear style, possess little visual continuity, and represent no unified historic landscape.

As the Academy reservation has expanded in all directions, the Post Services area has grown relatively closer to the center of the Academy. Attempts at monumental building, such as Eisenhower Hall, have largely destroyed the cluttered, yet interesting atmosphere which had existed when so many different service functions were being performed in this area.

Lusk Area Officers' Quarters

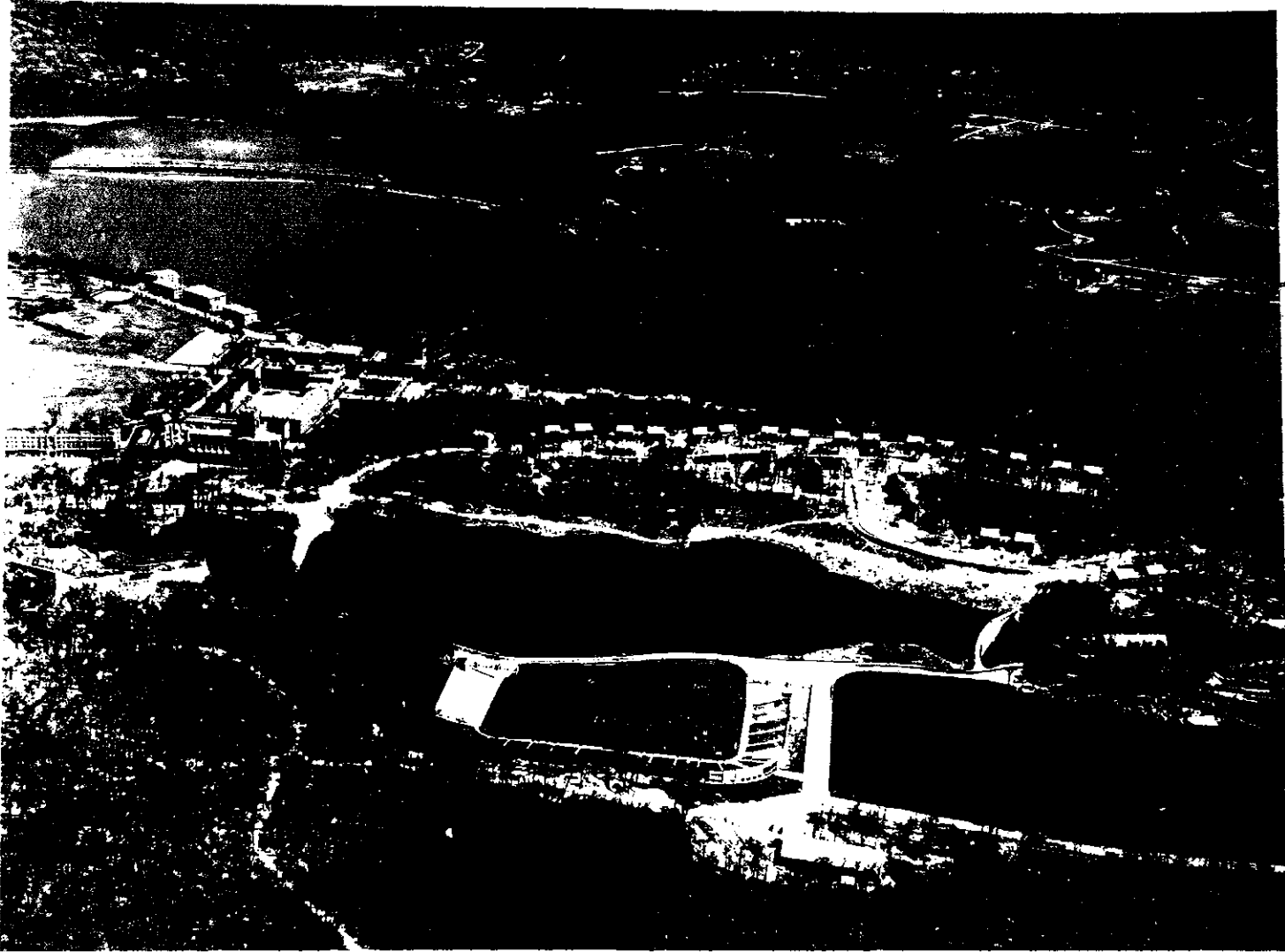
Situated on high ground near the eastern edge of Lusk Reservoir, this area consists of three streets: Schofield Place, Partridge Place, and Stewart Road (illustration #131 & 132).



131. Location map showing the Lusk area Officers' Quarters, as defined by the HABS Historic Structures Inventory.

1978

USMA Planning Office (modified)



132. A 1930s aerial view showing the recently developed Lusk area. Officers' Family Housing and the 1880s Observatory are at center. The football stadium is in front of Lusk Reservoir, and Fort Putnam is to the left.

May 4, 1933

USMA Archives

Built along a Revolutionary War redoubt, the Observatory was located in this area in 1883, after it was found that the new railroad tunnel under the Plain disturbed the sensitive instrumentation of the Observatory in the old Library. Designed by Wilson Brothers and Company, it featured a dome thirty feet in diameter, two tons in weight, and made of paper (illustration #133). The paper was utilized to reduce electrical disturbances to the sensitive instruments. The paper dome was also one-tenth the weight of a copper dome. In 1924, the paper dome was replaced with one of a paper and board construction covered with canvas.¹⁰¹ In 1935, the Observatory was shut down, and the abandoned building was finally demolished in the late 1950s.

At the northeastern edge of this area is a frame quarters (#61) built in 1885. This handsome quarters stands within feet of the site of the old Observatory. According to an 1889 account, the building was occupied by the "mechanic assistant in the Department of Natural and Experimental Philosophy," who took care of the observatory instruments.¹⁰²

Fourteen of the buildings in this area are quarters of a common design; double sets of two-story brick quarters joined by a two-bay, one-story garage. The only difference between these buildings (#62-88, even numbers only) is the alternating use of a pedimented or balustraded entranceway. These buildings were designed under Quartermaster Edwin Dunstan in 1932.

The final building in this area is located at the end of Partridge Place (#1001). This is a large single brick quarters, built in 1940, which is different in design from, yet in harmony with, the older buildings. It is presently owned by the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and serves as the residence for the football coach.



133. The Observatory in the Lusk area was built in the 1880s, after the railroad tunnel below the Plain disturbed the astronomical instruments located in the old Library towers. This building was shut down in 1935 and was demolished in the late 1950s.

ca. 1890

USMA Archives

The Lusk area was determined to be a Category III Zone. Although of interest as an example of 1930s officers housing and well-planned and located in a setting which is pleasing to the eye, the area's architecture is without distinction. Only limited historical values exist due to the historic location in the area of the Observatory and the presence of an old Revolutionary War redoubt.

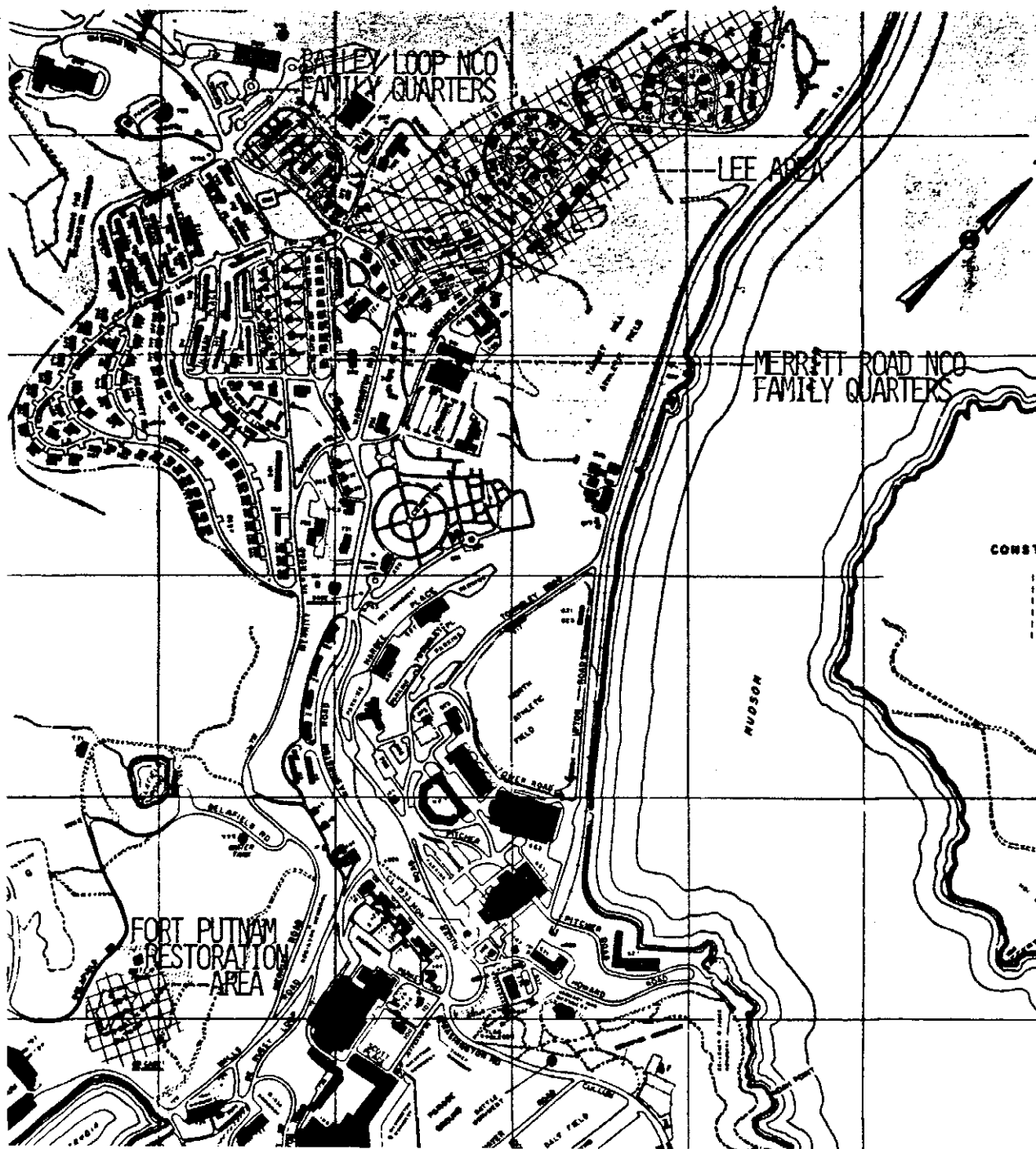
Merritt Road Non-Commissioned Officers' Family Quarters Area

Located on both sides of Merritt Road near Bartlett Loop (illustration #134), this area contains a dozen sets of double brick family quarters (#397-419, odd numbers only). All built in 1931, these structures differ only by alternating front porch entrances. Each building has either a balustraded or pedimented porch supported by simple columns.

Designated as a Category III Zone, this area has no particular architectural interest and only possesses the limited historical interest attached to the general movement of enlisted men out to this area, farther away from the Academic area. This area is of limited interest as an example of a typical repetitive layout of Army non-commissioned officers' housing.

Bailey Loop Non-Commissioned Officers' Family Quarters Area

Located on the northern side of upper Washington Road (illustration #134), this area contains two sets of buildings, each of which forms an enclosed courtyard (#421 and 422). Built in 1932, these buildings have no historical value. Visually, they rate highly because they utilize simple architecture to create a very pleasing central area, typical of goals sought during the suburban



134. Location map showing: Merrit Road area, Bailey Loop area, Lee area, and Fort Putnam, as defined by the HABS Historic Structures Inventory.

1978

USMA Planning Office (modified)

architectural design movement at this time. Considering the usual lack of aesthetic concern with most Army NCO housing areas, Baily Loop area is an interesting deviation from more simple designs. Bailey Loop is a Category III Zone.

Lee Gate Officers' Family Quarters Area

Beginning at the area across from the old Soldiers Hospital, on the north side of upper Washington Road, continuing north to Lee Gate, is the Lee Gate area (illustration #134).

The lower end of this area includes a half-dozen sets of double officers' family quarters built under Academy Quartermaster D. Esitz during the 1930s (#150, 155, 160, 165, 170, 173, 175, 176, 181, 208, 211, 216), plus a number of detached garages. Farther north are forty attractive buildings set along Lee Road, Beauregard Place and Bernard and Bowman Loops (#220, 223, 225, 231-247 odd numbers, 256-280, even numbers, 277, 282-298 even numbers), plus detached brick garages. These quarters are attractive, well-designed brick buildings, situated in a setting reflective of the garden-like atmosphere sought in suburbs throughout the country during the 1930s. Their design represents an excellent solution to the problem of locating dozens of similar structures in one area.

At the northern end of Lee Road is Lee Gate, the northernmost gate to the post. The handsome stone gates and gateposts (#701 and 703) were designed in the mid 1930s and constructed with funds from the Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.).¹⁰³

Historically, this area has only limited significance, as its association with the officers of West Point dates only from the 1930s. Architecturally and visually, the Lee Gate area is quite appealing. The utilization of loops, cul-de-sacs, and enclosed courtyards places Lee area at the forefront of 1930s suburban design concepts. This area is a category III Zone.

Fort Putnam

Named for the officer in charge of its construction, this fort was built by Col. Rufus Putnam's Massachusetts Regiment in 1779.¹⁰⁴ Part of a series of Revolutionary War forts, redoubts, and batteries, Fort Putnam, and the West Point area in general, was believed by General George Washington to serve as a lifeline between the New England and Mid-Atlantic states. The elevated location of Fort Putnam, above and behind Fort Clinton, was selected to prevent the British from again capturing a riverfront fort by attacking from high ground at its rear, as they had done down river at Fort Montgomery. The complete effectiveness of Col. Putnam's design was never determined because Fort Putnam was never tested under enemy fire.

By the end of the 19th century, the fort was in ruins (illustration #135). In 1910, it was rebuilt, based on a configuration that had been drawn by Professor of Drawing, Seth Eastman in 1830. Distinct differences between Eastman's drawing and various outlines on Revolutionary War maps suggest that the 1830s configuration was an imprecise rendering of the actual fort. As part of the Bicentennial celebration at West Point, the fort was again rebuilt according to the Eastman configuration. In addition to the questionable authenticity of the



135. Fallen to ruin by the latter part of the 19th century, the casements of Fort Putnam were among the only surviving sections of this Revolutionary War Fort. The fort was reconstructed in 1910, and again in the 1970s.

configuration of the fort, the fort's integrity is in question because the use of stone reflects its appearance only after the dirt and wood walls were replaced at some point after the initial construction.

Determined to be a Category III Zone, this reconstruction of a Revolutionary War fort has no direct relationship to the historic teaching mission of the Academy. It does, however, serve as a representation of the military post mission during West Point's early years. Additional documentation on the fort is available in the USMA Archives, and should be consulted for further information on Fort Putnam.

OUTLYING AREAS

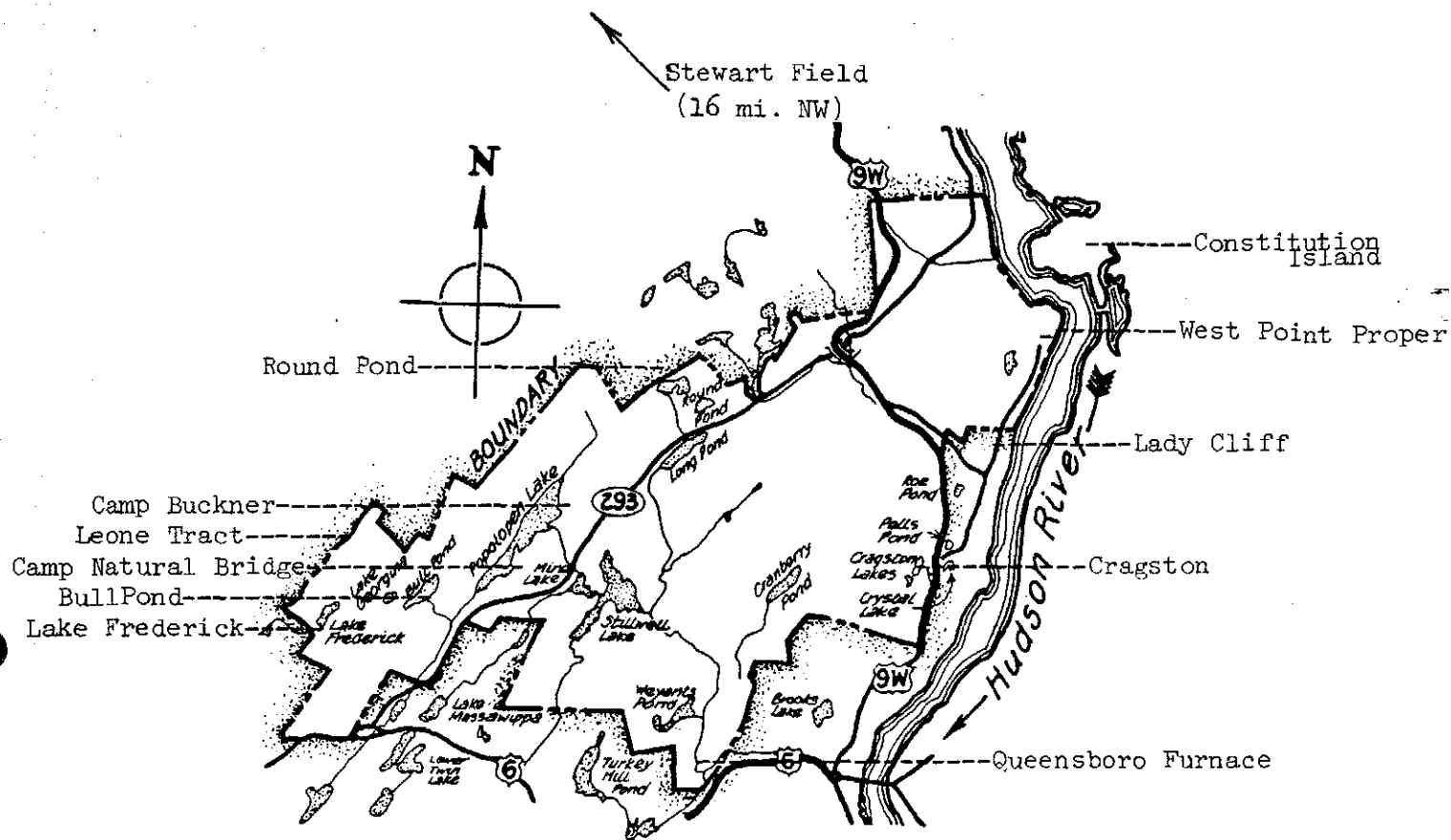
The following is a brief discussion of identifiable areas acquired by the Military Academy since the turn of the century (illustration #136). The majority of these areas were acquired in connection with the 1931 Land Acquisition Act (see the Historic Land Use and Acquisition section of this report). In most cases, pre-acquisition land-use patterns of the properties do not relate to either the important teaching or post missions; nor do they, through design or construction, contribute to the visual beauty of the main Academy. Due to these considerations, all areas and buildings within the outlying areas have been designated as category IV properties. The only exception is in the instances when an area or building meets National Register of Historic Places criteria as a property separate from the USMA National Historic Landmark district. In that case, the property is evaluated in terms of its own significance, independent of the Academy's significance.

Constitution Island

Situated in the Hudson River across from West Point, Constitution Island is separated by a marsh from the eastern shore of the Hudson River (illustration #136). Access is possible only via boat or a narrow railroad causeway from the eastern shore. The island was acquired by the Military Academy in 1908.

The fortifications along the Hudson, of which Constitution Island was an important part, have received in-depth attention in other studies.¹⁰⁵ For the purposes of this report only a brief discussion was deemed necessary.

OUTLYING AREAS



136. Location map of Outlying areas, as defined by the HABS Historic Structures Inventory.

1982

Drawn by R.K. Anderson, HABS/HAER

The history of ownership of Constitution Island may be traced to the original land grant. During the mid 18th century, the British Crown granted the island to the Philipse Family, who maintained it into the 19th century. Originally known as Martelaer's Rock, the island is believed to have been renamed by the American colonists in reference to their efforts to preserve their rights under the British Constitution. To fortify the Hudson Highlands Congress authorized the construction of defensive works, including those begun on Constitution Island, in the summer of 1775 under the direction of Bernard Romans. Unfortunately, these defenses proved inadequate against the advancing British troops in October of 1777. The British held Fort Constitution for three weeks, until their loss at the Battle of Saratoga forced them to regroup closer to New York City. With the beginning of 1778, the Americans returned to rebuild their defenses. Under the supervision of Thaddeus Kosciuszko, Constitution Island received additional fortifications (parts of which are still visible at the southwest corner of the island), and Forts Arnold (later renamed Fort Clinton) and Putnam were established on the West Point side of the river. In April of 1778, a "Great Chain" was run from West Point to the island to block the passage of enemy ships. The Great Chain at West Point was never put to the test by the British and was later removed.

On November 3, 1836, Henry Warner, a New York lawyer, purchased the island from Samuel Gouverneur and his wife, who are presumed to be heirs of the original owners, the Philipse family. Warner originally had become interested in the island when visiting his brother Thomas, who served as Professor of Geography, History and Ethics, as well as Chaplain at the Academy. Henry Warner suffered major financial losses in the panic of 1837, from which he never recovered. A widower, he moved his two daughters, who were cared for by their aunt, to the Island that same year. The daughters--Susan, who was seventeen, and Anna, who

was twelve--were to remain on the island in exile from the New York City society in which they had grown up. Efforts by Henry Warner to obtain a right of way out to the island were unsuccessful, and throughout the sisters' lifetimes access to the isolated island could be gained only across water or through the marsh along the eastern shore of the Hudson.

Both Susan and Anna possessed high degrees of literary and artistic talent. Neither ever married, and they spent their years on the island writing novels, poems, and hymns, and sketching local scenes. The sketches, which remain in their papers in the archives of the Constitution Island Association, serve to provide us with scenes of the island in the nineteenth century as it was perceived and depicted by the Warners.

The writing, especially of novels, though acclaimed in literary circles, proved financially unrewarding due to lax copyright laws and, as a result, the two women barely supported themselves through their literary endeavors. The hymns, particularly the well-known "Jesus Loves Me," brought lasting fame to their author, Anna Warner. Susan Warner published approximately 44 books using the pen name Elizabeth Wetherell. Her first and most successful novel, The Wide Wide World was published in 1851 and is said to have been second only to Harriet Beecher Stowe's classic, Uncle Tom's Cabin, in sales during that decade. Anna was also a prolific writer, authoring 42 books which were published under the pen name Amy Lothrop. The work of both of these women was influenced by the flowery sentimental literature popular at that time and, while not surviving as great literature today, it has value as a faithful portrayal of 19th-century life in the Hudson Highlands.

Susan and Anna Warner grew extremely attached to the Military Academy during their long years on the island. Their relationship with the Academy was strengthened after they initiated a series of Bible classes for the cadets at West Point. For several decades, the excursion to the sisters' Bible study class was one of the few opportunities for the cadets to get away from the Academy. Susan and Anna, who died in 1885 and 1915 respectively, received the honor of burial in the West Point Cemetery. In addition to donating an original Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washington to the Academy, Anna, with the assistance of Mrs. Russell Sage, presented Constitution Island to the United States Government for use as a recreation area and military training site for cadets. In 1916, the Constitution Island Association, made up of many friends and former pupils of the sisters, was founded. Today, the Constitution Island Association owns the contents of the Warner House and provides an ongoing educational program on the house and grounds. The Association also maintains a small library and archives relating to the Warners.

The Warner House (#1183) remains intact on the island today. (See HABS No. NY-5708-48 for detailed description and history.) Two associated structures, located to the rear, are constructed mainly of fieldstone; one serves as a tool shed/carriage house (#1185), and one served, until recently, as a caretaker's house (#1184).

The residence, operated as a house museum, remains much as it was when the Warners lived there. When Henry Warner moved his family to the island, he added onto an existing structure which is thought to date from the 18th century and to have served as a cottage for the Philippses' caretaker. A single fieldstone wall is said to be part of a 1782 Revolutionary War barracks, which early maps depict as on or near that site. The Warner addition to the original structure in the

1830s was a major one, consisting of the eastern section of the house. Projecting shed additions at the rear were added at subsequent periods (illustration #137). (See HABS NY-5708-48 for detailed history and description of the house.)

Constitution Island possesses significance on several levels. The importance of the remains of the Revolutionary War fortifications is great, and independent of any association with the Academy, preservation of the island as a historic site is justified. However, since these remains are archeological resources and not standing structures, they must be evaluated by archeological criteria which do not form a part of this report.

The Warner House is significant as both a relatively unchanged 19th-century residence, in which nearly all of its furnishings belonged to the Warner family, (illustration #138), and as the home of two important literary figures. Its historic importance is sufficient for independent evaluation, without needing to draw on its location in the USMA National Historic District. However, the Warner sisters' relationship to the cadets gives the house further importance. While their relationship to the Academy is not a major one, the Warner sisters do have a place in the legends and traditions of the Academy. The Island, because of its historic relationship with the Academy and its intrinsic interest independent of the historic values of the Academy, is a Category II Zone.

Round Pond

Despite its location along a major river, West Point was often without a reliable source of water. Making progress towards correcting this problem, the authorities acquired, and later tapped, Round Pond. Located west of the Academy



137. East of the Academy, on Constitution Island, the early 19th century Warner House was the home of Susan and Anna Warner. The sisters spent much of their time writing popular stories and instructing cadets in Bible study.

ca. 1870

USMA Archives



138. An interior view of the Warner House. Note the portrait of George Washington which was later donated to the Academy.

ca. 1908

USMA Archives

proper (illustration #136), the higher elevation of Round Pond provided the Academy with a large supply of water, which ran down to the Academy through a long pipe laid across land made available to West Point through property easements. Although the pond itself was purchased for the Academy in 1879 from Ezra Drew, the property leading up to it from the highway, and the land around it, was not acquired until 1942 from Libby Motax.¹⁰⁶ In addition to the recreational structures built by the government after the 1942 acquisition, there are a couple of rustic cabins and shelters built around the pond by the W.P.A. in the 1930s.

At the entrance to the road leading from the highway to the pond is a stone residence (#1330). Little information on this building was available, but local residents say that it was built at the beginning of the twentieth century. To the south of this building is a small cemetery with over a dozen grave markers. Most of the markers are from the 1830s, one being as early as 1815. Some of the names which appear on the markers are: Curry, Krankhyte, Files, and Fiels. Farther up the road is a handsome frame residence (#1340) last owned by Libby Motax. Little information on the history of this building was found.

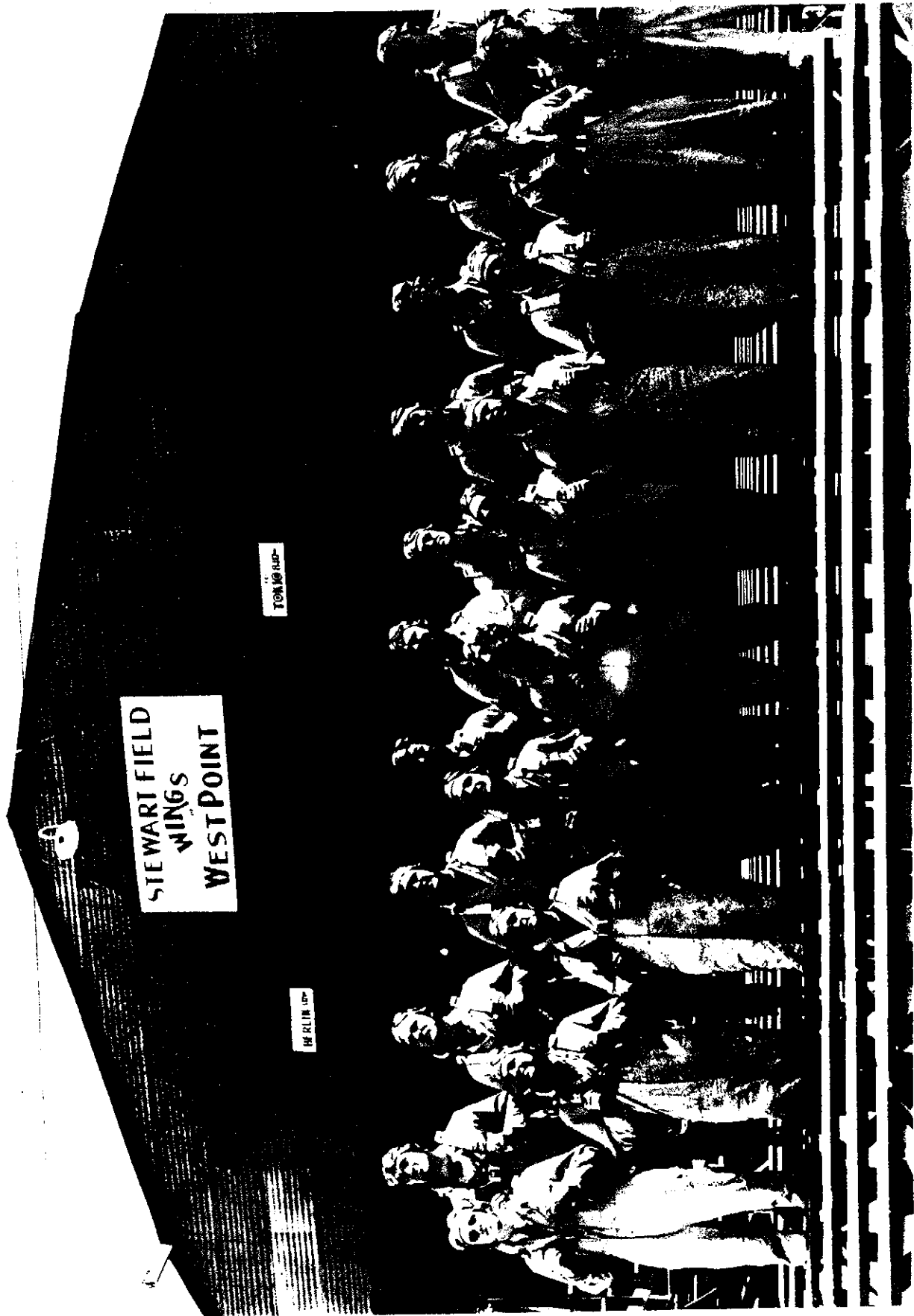
Population census information provides some insight into an earlier owner of the pond, Ezra Drew.¹⁰⁷ According to the 1900 Census, he was a white male, born in September, 1821, in New York. A literate farmer who owned this property around the pond, he shared his house with his single son, Albert W. Drew, who was born in November of 1846. The earlier 1880 census lists a fifty-seven-year-old wife Mary, a thirty-four-year old son Albert, and a three-year-old daughter Ellen.

Although of limited interest in terms of local history, this area is not considered significant to the historic missions at West Point. Unable to meet National Register criteria separate from its minor relationship with the USMA, this is a Category IV Zone.

Stewart Field

Located west of the city of Newburgh, this tract of land is approximately 16 miles away from the main Academy. Its relationship with West Point began in the early 1930s, when Samuel L. Stewart donated the family farm to the town of Newburgh for use as a municipal airport. Despite the assistance of W.P.A. funds, the city was unable to make much progress towards its construction due to the Depression. In 1935, the town of Newburgh agreed to turn the property over to the Federal government for one dollar, plus certain access rights to the Army's new airfield. In September of 1936, the Army officially took control of the property, and, in 1937, the first plane landed at the new field (one day prior to the official first landing a local publicity seeker stole the honor of "first landing" from the Army). On August 25, 1942, the first group of 250 Second Class cadets entered a basic flying training center which became known as "the Wings of West Point" (illustration #139, 140).

Additional tracts were added to the original Stewart Tract, on which schools, shops, and housing facilities were erected. At the height of activity during World War II, over 2,000 people were housed at Stewart. The last class of air cadets was graduated in June, 1946, and, in 1948, Stewart was placed under the jurisdiction of the recently established Department of the Air Force. Stewart served as part of a chain of strategic air bases along the east coast until 1969, when the Air Force left and it became a municipal airport for the Newburgh area,



139. Cadets participating in the Army Air Corps Program at Stewart Field, known as the "Wings of West Point."

1942

USMA Archives



140. Cadets inspecting a Northrup plane at Stewart Air Field.

1942

USMA Archives

with housing facilities for USMA personnel. Stewart returned to the limelight briefly in early 1981, when it was the airfield used when the American hostages returned from Iran on their way to the Hotel Thayer at West Point.¹⁰⁸

Only two pre-acquisition structures seem to have survived in this area, and these were not part of the original Stewart Farm. Only fragmentary information was found on these buildings. One of the buildings is a frame structure (#2624), which most likely predates the turn of the twentieth century. Its typical rural design, plus the fact that it stands on a road once known as Pig Lane, suggests that it served as a farm residence.¹⁰⁹ The other building (#2606), of stone construction, is located farther north. A search in the County Recorder of Deeds office failed to provide very much information which was helpful in understanding the history of either of these buildings. An early county atlas for 1903 shows a building owned by William McGregor, located on, or near, the site of the stone building.¹¹⁰ A search for that name in the census for 1900 disclosed that William McGregor was a single, white man, born in Scotland in December, 1848, who came to the United States in 1852. He was listed as a literate farmer who owned a mortgaged property.¹¹¹

Having only recent and short term association with the USMA, this area fails to sustain any significant degree of historic importance separate from its limited association with West Point. It is a Category IV Zone.

Cragston Dairy Farm

Located south of the village of Highland Falls, just west of Route 9W, is the old dairy farm of J. P. Morgan's Estate, Cragston (illustration #136). The

millionaire banker owned a great deal of land in the area and traveled between his homes on the west shore of the Hudson and New York City via his private yacht "Corsair."¹¹²

In early 1928, the Cragston Development Corporation acquired 731 acres of the deceased banker's estate. Hoping to exploit the Cragston name, the Development Corporation set out to create a profitable summer colony. During the summer of 1928, they found the project too consuming of time and money and sought to sell their holdings. The Cragston Holding Company purchased 411 of the acres, but soon sold them to the Cragston Yacht and Country Club for \$350,000. It should be remembered that all of these dealings took place shortly prior to the crash on Wall Street which led to the Great Depression. Further threatening their project, the Federal Government at this time began to consider acquiring the property for West Point. The Cragston Yacht and Country Club soon went bankrupt, thus straining the holding company's ability to continue its contractual obligations with the Development Corporation. Reluctantly, the Development Corporation foreclosed and regained possession of the property, selling over 500 acres of it to the Government in 1941.¹¹³

Remaining on this site are two major structures: the Cragston Dairy Barn, a large frame barn, painted red, with concrete additions (#2026); and a stone residence (#2020). Although the date of erection of the barn is unknown, its historic use is apparent. The role of the stone residence is open to speculation, though its construction likely preceded the purchase of the property by Morgan. Deed or tax assessment information was either unavailable or uninformative about the structure or its occupants. The 1871 and 1903 County Atlases list John Denton as occupying a building on, or near, this site.¹¹⁴ The 1900 census gives information on Mr. Denton and his household.¹¹⁵ Born in January, 1821, in New

York, Mr. Denton was a white, literate property owner and the son of parents also born in the state. His wife of six years was born in August, 1837, in New York. Her parents were born in Germany. The Denton residence also housed a white, single, literate farm hand. In addition, on the day of the enumeration, the household included Mr. Denton's 61-year-old sister-in-law and a young couple from Germany with their two sons. According to the 1870 and 1880 censuses, Mr. Denton lived with a previous wife, who was the same age as her husband and who had been born in Ireland.¹¹⁶

The old stone house reflects the earlier farming function of the area. It has been modified by the addition of a rear wing. While its precise history cannot be traced, it is probable that the building possesses limited local significance.

This area has been affiliated with the USMA only since the 1940s, and its points of interest are not related to the significance of the USMA. Since it does not meet the criteria of the National Register for Historic Places as a property separate from the Academy, it is a Category IV Zone.

Camp Buckner

On the eastern shore of Lake Popolopen, southwest of the main Academy area, stands Camp Buckner, the summer training camp for cadets. This area was acquired in the spring of 1942 (illustration #136). The camp was begun with eight sets of salvaged Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.) Barracks, which were relocated from an old C.C.C. camp at the Crows Nest area, north of Lee Gate area.¹¹⁷

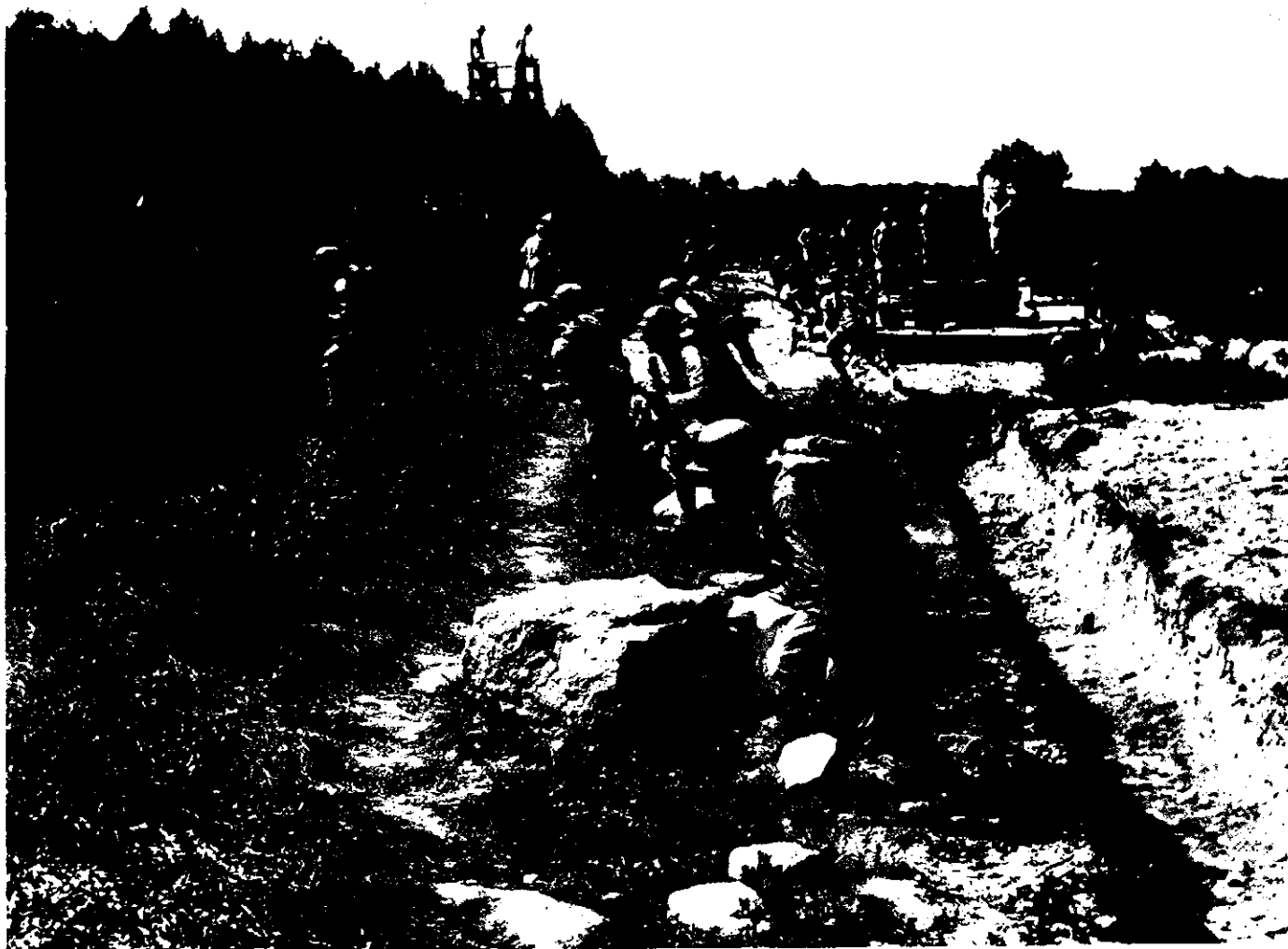
Lake Popolopen was created in 1817 by a dam, which was built to prevent flooding of the Forest of Dean's Mine, which had opened in 1755. At the entrance to the



141. As technological advances in modern military equipment changed the way cadets would train, West Point required additional land. This picture shows cadets training in the Popolopen area in WWII era tanks.

1944

USMA Archives



142. Cadets charging from a trench during field exercises in the Popolopen area.

1944

USMA Archives



143. Cadets and their guests relaxing on the beach at Camp Buckner.

ca. 1945

USMA Archives

camp are the remains of the old Mine Lake Inn, a tavern owned by Terrance Gibney and operated by a Mr. Julian.¹¹⁸ During the early part of the 20th century, Lake Popolopen became a popular summer hideaway, with its shores dotted with dozens of summer cottages and bungalows.

Soon after this area was acquired by the Academy, work began on a camp for 1,000 cadets, with barracks, utility buildings, water supply, sewers, and twenty-four target ranges on 100 cleared acres (illustration #141, 142).¹¹⁹ Camp Buckner continues to service the summer training program with numerous 1960s barracks (#1501, #1526), a guest house (#1537), and recreation facilities (#1534, #1560, #1576, #1592) (illustration #143).

The Camp was named in honor of Lt. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr., class of 1908. General Buckner had been Commandant of Cadets in the mid-1930s and was killed in action on Okinawa while leading the Tenth Army in 1945.¹²⁰

The Camp Buckner area possesses neither architectural nor historical significance. Since its connection with the USMA is a relatively recent one, this is a Category IV Zone. It is recommended that further research be undertaken to determine the role this area played in cadet training since World War II.

Prisoner of War Camp/Camp Natural Bridge

Located southeast of Lake Popolopen stands Camp Natural Bridge (illustration # 136). Shortly after this area was acquired in 1942, West Point sought to utilize it as a Prisoner of War Camp. A letter of August 7, 1944, from Acting Superintendent Hannen requests authorization to create a P.O.W. camp at West

Point to offset the "critical shortage of civilian labor in this vicinity." He stated three goals he hoped to accomplish with the Nazi laborers. First, to clear approximately 680 acres for new artillery ranges; second, to cut fire lanes and clear lines for surveys; and third, to improve roads and drainage in training areas.¹²¹ The plan proposed housing for 325 prisoners and 50 guards.¹²²

On January 13, 1945, the camp was activated under Captain J. Edward McEvoy, and, on January 16, three hundred German prisoners were admitted (all but two were enlisted men). The prisoners were housed in five "C.C.C.-type hutments," measuring 20'x 120' with sixty men assigned to each. All three hundred prisoners were said to be on work status, with approximately fifty of them employed by the Quartermaster on maintenance and repairs at the Academy. Most others were engaged in land clearance work, working a nine or nine-and-a-half hour day, at eighty cents per day. According to reports on file in the National Archives, the prisoners were well provided for during their internment. The report mentioned a "fist-ball field" at the center of the compound, films (most in English) viewed once a week, and the availability of newspapers, magazines, and radio broadcasts.

A later report by a representative of the State Department, who accompanied a delegate of the International Red Cross on a visit to the camp, describes the improvements made in the camp. In addition to an orchestra, a small library with a few German books had been established. German-speaking civilian clergymen from the surrounding areas provided services for Protestants and Catholics. The State Department representative reported that the prisoners, mostly of lower educational backgrounds, expressed no desire to participate in educational programs available at nearby schools and colleges. The camp contained a dispensary, with eight beds, staffed by the two German "protected prisoners" (probably officers). The West Point Hospital was used for serious bed cases and

dental problems. According to the report, the Camp Commander stated that two or three men per month required some disciplinary action, but no complaints from prisoners were received by the Red Cross delegate.¹²³

An additional source of information is a letter in the USMA Archives files from Borge Kourist, a P.O.W. at West Point between January, 1945, and April, 1946. Writing in 1972, he stated that his labors included working a power saw and axe in the woods on the artillery range. He claims to have helped "plan" and build the ski lift and to have worked in the kitchen of the Engineer Company at West Point. Kourist also claims that after the armistice he witnessed General Eisenhower drive past in a car while he was working on the ski lift.¹²⁴

After the war, the compound was used to house and feed the supervisory troops supporting the cadet training program. In September of 1949, the wire fence around the compound was taken down, removing the last clearly identifiable feature of the P.O.W. Camp.¹²⁵

The suggestion was made to name the camp after Lt. Col. Jack J. Richardson, Class of 1935, who had died in Germany less than three weeks before the end of the war. However, rather than confuse the name with the better known former Commandant, Lt. General R. L. Richardson, it was decided to use the local reference to this area, Natural Bridge.¹²⁶

Since several buildings now at Camp Natural Bridge occupy the same sites as the original structures, it is unclear whether the wooden barracks were replaced with metal ones or reclad with metal siding during the 1950s and 1960s.¹²⁷ There remain no architecturally significant buildings and only a few original structures which reflect the use of this area as a P.O.W. Camp. Of only recent

association with the USMA and unable to meet the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places as a property separate from the significance of the USMA, this is a Category IV Zone.

Bull Pond

Located southwest of Camp Natural Bridge is Bull Hill, the highest point of land owned by West Point (illustration #136). Near the top of Bull Hill is Bull Pond, the Superintendent's summer camp, which consists of one stone cottage (#1800) and two frame structures, which serve as a community house (#1802) and boat house (#1804). No documentary material was located on this area; further research is recommended. Unless additional research proves additional significance, this will remain a Category IV Zone.

Lake Frederick

Located at the southwestern extreme of the land acquisitioned in the 1940s, this property was purchased in May, 1944, from the estate of Frederick Proctor (illustration #136).¹²⁸ Presently, only one large building exists (#1848), featuring an odd conjunction of large columns, dormers, and rubble stone walls. The house, believed to have been a servants' quarters, was last owned by Mrs. Donnell, daughter of the late Mr. Proctor. There originally had been a few other buildings on this property of over twelve hundred acres. A series of metal A-frames of recent construction and a rustic wood and stone shelter are located west of a man-made lake.

Unable to meet the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places as a property separate from the USMA, this is a Category IV zone.

Queensboro Furnace

At the extreme southern end of the reservation, on land acquired in 1942, stands the old Queensboro Iron Furnace (#1980) (illustration #136). The furnace is situated at the junction of the Queensboro and Popolopen Creeks, about two and one-half miles west-southwest of the village of Fort Montgomery. In a comprehensive study of furnaces in the area, James M. Ransom dates the construction of this structure to sometime shortly after 1783.¹²⁹

This stone furnace differs from other furnaces of its period only in the unusually high pointed arch on the southside. Restored by the federal government in 1912, the furnace bears a tablet indicating that the nearby creek was forded at this point by British soldiers on their way to attack Fort Montgomery during the Revolutionary War. (See HABS No. NY-5708-57 for a detailed description and history.)

Evaluated as an individual structure rather than as an area, this excellent example of an iron furnace is a Category I structure, due to its age, its relatively good state of preservation, and its important relationship to the early production of iron in this region. While this structure does not relate to the history of the Academy, it possesses sufficient importance to warrant separate nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. (See the nomination form included in Volume I.)

Leone Tract

In December of 1959, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Leone, of the well known Mama Leone's Restaurant in New York City, donated about 1,000 acres of land to West Point.

Adjoining the western edge of the lands acquired during the 1940s, this land was used for the expansion of the cadet summer training area (illustration #136).

Mr. Leone had long been a friend of West Point. In fact, he was an honorary member of the West Point Class of 1915.¹³⁰ This property added room to the western end of the reservation for the practice of modern military tactics.

No buildings are left on this property from the pre-acquisition period. Unable to meet the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places as a property evaluated separate from the USMA, this is a Category IV Zone.

Lady Cliff

Situated on about forty acres, this property lies east of Main Street, Highland Falls, and extends from the southern gate of West Point to Buttermilk Falls (illustration #136). Now known as New South Post, the Lady Cliff property was recently purchased by the federal government.

Originally a great hotel, Cozzen's (later Cranston's), was built on this site in 1849. It was later rebuilt after an 1859 fire.¹³¹ During the second half of the last century, the hotel hosted many prominent individuals, including President Lincoln, Generals Winfield Scott and George Sherman, Mrs. U.S. Grant, Mrs. Jefferson Davis, and the Prince of Wales. The Hotel became known as a resort for the elite and wealthy, with weekly rates for a single room allegedly running into the hundreds of dollars. However, by the end of the century, business at the old hotel had declined to such an extent that the Hudson City Savings Institution was forced to foreclose and sell the property. On January 1, 1900, the Franciscan Sisters, who had operated a school in Peekskill since 1869, officially acquired the property for \$60,000 and established Lady Cliff Academy.

During its first year of operation, sixty female students were enrolled at Lady Cliff Academy. By 1908, that number had increased to 200. In 1933, the Academy added a four-year college program to its high school program. By 1956, there were over 200 girls in the Academy, 175 in the college, with a staff of over 60 sisters, priests, and lay people. Experiencing financial difficulties, Lady Cliff announced on April 18, 1980 that it would close its doors (illustration #144).¹³²

The interest in Lady Cliff expressed by West Point has had precedents over the years. In 1902, it was suggested that West Point acquire Lady Cliff for future expansion.¹³³ The suggestion was made again by the 1908 Board of Visitors, in hopes of acquiring a new hotel site.¹³⁴ On April 19, 1910, Congress appropriated \$150,000 to purchase the property for a hotel in lieu of building a new one on post.¹³⁵ However, later that year, the Superintendent learned that the Catholic Church never had any interest in selling the property, at any price, at any time.¹³⁶

During the 1930s, West Point formulated yet another plan for Lady Cliff. In search of a suitable air field for the Cadets, Academy officials drew up plans for an "airdrome" on the site of Lady Cliff Academy.¹³⁷ Once again, these plans were never carried through.

Today, there are several other buildings in addition to what remains of the old hotel. A 1956 News of the Highlands newspaper article gives dates for the major buildings built by the church.¹³⁸ In 1913, Lady Hall, containing classrooms, was built north of the old hotel's west wing. The hotel section was then used exclusively for administration and dormitories. In 1937, Rosary Hall was built, north of the hotel's east wing, for use as college classrooms. In 1948, the



144. Originally a grand hotel during the second half of the 19th century, the building in the background became Lady Cliff Academy after the turn of the 20th century. Recently closed, the former girl's school, which is adjacent to West Point's southern river-front property, will likely be the next parcel of land purchased by West Point.

ca. 1908

USMA Archives

eastern two-thirds of the old hotel were demolished to make way for the Mary Hall dormitory (completed 1951). An old wing to the south of the demolished section remains, as indicated by the tower, and was remodeled as a church in 1955. A modern dormitory and library were built sometime after 1960.

This area offers little in the way of surviving connections to the main Academy. The original hotel, which housed so many important visitors, has been converted to administrative and dormitory space, partially demolished, and, most recently, abandoned. Also, with the closing of the school in 1980, there are no longer young women of Lady Cliff attending the cadet dances. Lady Cliff possesses no major significance in relation to the Academy. The remains of the old hotel possess limited historical significance to the local community of Highland Falls. Unfortunately, demolition of a major part of the structure, modification of exterior as well as interior fabric, and its present deteriorated condition severely affect its value as a historic architectural resource.

CONCLUSION

This overview has examined the different areas of the USMA which contribute, in varying degrees, to the USMA National Historic Landmark District. The organization of this overview tries to reflect this relationship, with the Academic area possessing primary significance, the Close-In Historic areas possessing secondary significance, and the Outlying areas possessing tertiary significance.

This overview assumed a mid-level of concentration on specific buildings due to the wide range of area covered. Other components of the overall West Point Study include less or greater degrees of detail for existing buildings. One part of the study is a categorization table, arranged by building number, which lists building name (present and historic), architect (if known), year of construction or acquisition, and category of significance for both the individual building and its zone (see Volume I of this study). Each building is also represented on inventory cards, which include the basic information cited above, plus a detailed description, a statement of significance, a site map, and a 35 mm photograph. The most important buildings received detailed written and photographic documentation done to HABS standards. These selected buildings also received detailed preservation guidelines which consider future options for care and planning (see Volume 3 of this study). All of this data, plus 4" x 5" negatives of the historic photographs used in this overview, is available in the HABS/HAER Collection of the Prints and Photographs Division at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., 20540.

Whether hurriedly viewed by a tourist or closely scrutinized by a team of experienced historians and architects, the USMA's historic and architectural traditions are tangibly reflected in the design and placement of its buildings.

Unfortunately, when, in the past, the preservation of these visual elements of West Point's traditions were in conflict with plans for expansion and growth, the lack of sufficient historic evaluations contributed to the removal of such buildings as the old Library. It is therefore hoped that this study will not only serve as a record of West Point up until the 1980s, but, together with the data listed above, serve as a future planning tool, to be utilized by the USMA to protect against damage to the important features of the USMA National Historic Landmark District.

FOOTNOTES

¹Sidney Forman, Hudson Highlands Hill People (Highlands, New York: By the Author, 1982) p.2.

²Ibid., p.3.

³Ibid., p.4

⁴"Post Facilities Report, 1889," U.S.M.A. Archives, Record Series 280, p. 78; "Superintendent's Annual Reports," U.S.M.A. Archives, Record Series 6, 1901 Report.

⁵"Post Planning Board Files," U.S.M.A. Archives, Box 8 & 9, File #601.1, item #8.

⁶"Superintendent's Annual Reports," 1912 Report.

⁷Ibid., 1838 Report.

⁸Ibid., 1842 Report.

⁹"Post Facilities Report, 1889," p. 42-45.

¹⁰"Reports of the Annual Board of Visitors," U.S.M.A. Archives, Record Series 315, 1843 and 1854 Reports.

¹¹"The Clock Tower," The Pointer (U.S.M.A.), June 1929.

¹²Montgomery Schuyler, "The Architecture of West Point," The Architectural Record, December 1903.

¹³"Post Facilities Report, 1889," p. 47.

¹⁴"Observatories in the United States," Harpers Monthly, March 1874.

¹⁵"Superintendent's Letter Books," U.S.M.A. Archives, Record Series 2, February 6, 1839 and June 3, 1839.

¹⁶Ibid., June 14, 1839.

¹⁷Ibid., June 3, 1839. "Fortification File," Cartographics Division, National Archives, Alexandria, Va. Drawer 32, Sheets 14-A, 14-B, 14-C.

¹⁸"Reports of the Annual Board of Visitors," 1873 Report.

¹⁹"Post Facilities Report, 1889," p. 36.

²⁰Ibid., p. 122.

²¹Ibid., p. 41.

²²"Superintendent's Letter Books," February 25, 1856.

- 23"Post Facilities Report, 1889," p. 38 and 127.
- 24Ibid., p. 39.
- 25Ibid., p. 122 and 53.
- 26Ibid., p. 126.
- 27"Superintendent's Letter Books," February 12, 1889.
- 28"General Letters Received," U.S.M.A. Archives, Record Series 155,
January 28, 1888.
- 29"Superintendent's Letter Books," March 31, 1891, and May 19, 1891.
- 30"General Letters Received," August 20, 1891.
- 31"Superintendent's Letter Books," August 20, 1891.
- 32Ibid., October 22, 1890.
- 33"Superintendent's Annual Report, 1895, p. 7.
- 34Charles W. Larned, History of the Battle Monument at West Point (West
Point: U.S.M.A., 1898).
- 35"Superintendent's Annual Reports," 1894 Report.
- 36Ibid., 1896 Report.
- 37"Superintendent's Letter Books," September 11, 1894.
- 38Ibid., June 10, 1896 and June 30, 1896.
- 39Ibid., June 30, 1895.
- 40Ibid., May 9, 1901.
- 41"Superintendent's Letter Books," July 25, 1901.
- 42"General Letters Received," May 17, 1895 and May 20, 1895.
- 43"Reports of the Annual Board of Visitors," 1901 Report.
- 44Charles W. Larned," U.S.M.A. Headquarters Report of Buildings
1888-1902," Special Collections Branch, U.S.M.A. Library.
- 45"Superintendent's Press Letter Books," U.S.M.A. Archives, Record Series
3, 1-402 1/2.
- 46"Superintendent's Press Letter Books," June 1, 1903, p. 318.
- 47Schuyler, "The Architecture at West Point."

- 48"Superintendent's Annual Reports," 1912 Report.
- 49"Reports of the Advisory Board," U.S.M.A. Archives, Record Series 325, March 10, 1904.
- 50"Superintendent's Annual Report," 1910 Report, p. 74.
- 51"Post Planning Board Files," Box 6, File 600.12.
- 52West Point Architectural Competition, 1944, Special Collections Branch, U.S.M.A. Library.
- 53"Post Planning Board Files," Box 7, File 600.1.
- 54"Washington Statue" File, Historical Inquiry Files, U.S.M.A. Archives.
- 55"Post Facilities Report," 1889," p. 132-136.
- 56Ibid.
- 57Ibid.
- 58"Superintendent's Annual Reports," 1890 Report.
- 59Ibid., 1897 Report.
- 60Ibid., 1900 Report.
- 61Marie T. Capps, "A Walking Tour of the West Point Cemetery," Special Collections Branch, U.S.M.A. Library.
- 62"Superintendent's Letter Books," Vol. 11, April 15, 1899.
- 63"George Armstrong Custer" File, Graduate Name File, U.S.M.A. Archives.
- 64"Egbert C. Viele" File, Historical File, Special Collections Branch, U.S.M.A. Library.
- 65"Annual Reports of the Board of Visitors," 1899 Report, p. 77.
- 66"Superintendent's Letter Books," January 31, 1867.
- 67"Superintendent's Annual Reports," 1901, 1908, and 1914 Reports.
- 68Ibid., 1935 Report.
- 69"Post Facilities Report," p. 130; "Superintendent's Annual Report," Report; "Post Planning Board Files," Box 14, File 825.1.
- 70"Superintendent's Annual Reports," 1880 Report.
- 71"Reports of the Advisory Board," October 5, 1903 and October 13, 1903.

72"Buffalo Soldiers Field" File, Historical Inquiry File, U.S.M.A. Archives.

73"Superintendent's Annual Reports," 1936 Report.

74"Post Planning Board Files," Box 12 and 13, File 658.

75"Catholic Chapel" File, Historical Inquiry Files, U.S.M.A. Archives.

76"Post Facilities Report," 1889, p. 86.

77Ibid., p. 91 and 92.

78Ibid., p. 134.

79Ibid., p. 90.

80"Reports of The Annual Board of Visitors," 1854 Report, p. 155; The Atlas of West Point, Special Collections Branch, U.S.M.A. Library.

81The Atlas of West Point.

82Augusta B. Berard, Reminiscences of West Point, (Special Collections Branch, U.S.M.A. Library, 1866).

83"Post Facilities Report," 1889, p. 129 and 30.

84Ibid.

85Ibid.

86"Superintendent's Annual Reports," 1897 Report.

87"General Letters Received," #666, June 7, 1887.

88"Post Facilities Report," 1889 p. 20.

89"Superintendent's Letter Books," Vol. 2, August 12, 1850.

90"Post Facilities Report," 1889, p. 127 and 135.

91"Post Planning Board Files," Box 11 and 12, File 634.

92"Post Facilities Report," 1889, p. 110.

93Ibid., p. 111, 112, 115.

94"Superintendent's Letter Books," January 31, 1867.

95"Superintendent's Annual Reports," 1892 Report.

96"Annual Board of Visitors Reports," 1854 Report, p. 155.

- 97"Post Facilities Report, 1889," pps. 115, 116, 117, and 134.
- 98Ibid., p. 112.
- 99Ibid., p. 120.
- 100Ibid., p. 119.
- 101"Old Observatory" File, Historical Inquiry files, U.S.M.A. Archives.
- 102"Post Facilities Report," 1889, p. 85.
- 103"Lee Gate" File, Historical Inquiry Files, U.S.M.A. Archives.
- 104Dave R. Palmer, The River and the Rock (New York: Greenwood Publishing Corp., 1969).
- 105"Adjutant General Records," File #206-09, Installation Historical File, 1963, Constitution Island, U.S.M.A. Archives.
- 106"Post Planning Board Files," Box 8 and 9, file 601.1.
- 107"U.S. Population Census," Orange County, New York, 1880 and 1900, Special Collection Branch, U.S.M.A. Library.
- 108"Stewart Air Field" File, Historical Inquiry Files, U.S.M.A. Archives.
- 109Deed #L.517, p. 426, September 4, 1896, Orange County Recorder of Deeds Office, Goshen, New York.
- 1101903 Atlas of Orange County, New York, (New York: A. H. Mueller & Co., 1903).
- 111"U.S. Population Census."
- 112Herbert L. Satterlee, J. P. Morgan; An Intimate Portrait (N.Y., New York: Macmillan Co., 1939).
- 113"Post Planning Board Files," Box 8 and 9, File 601.1.
- 114Beer's County Atlas of Orange, New York, (New York, 1875); 1903 Atlas of Orange County.
- 115"U.S. Population Census," 1900.
- 116Ibid., 1870 and 1880.
- 117"Post Planning Board Files," Box 1 and 2, File 354.1.
- 118Cadet Florian Cornay, "A History of Camp Buckner," "Camp Buckner" File, Historical Inquiry Files, U.S.M.A. Archives.
- 119"Superintendent's Annual Reports," 1943 Report.

120 "Post Planning Board Files," Box 1 and 2, File 354.1.

121 Ibid., item 82.

122 "Superintendent's Annual Reports," 1945 Report.

123 World War II Prisoner of War Camp at West Point, New York, Modern Military Branch, National Archives, Washington, DC, Reports dated April 23, 1945 and May 18, 1945.

124 "Camp Natural Bridge/Prisoner of War Camp" File, Historical Inquiry Files, U.S.M.A. Archives.

125 "Post Planning Board Files," Box 1 and 2, Files 354.1.

126 Ibid., item 156.

127 "Superintendent's Annual Reports," 1950s and 1960s Reports.

128 "Post Planning Board Files," Box 8 and 9, File 601.1.

129 James M. Ransom, Vanishing Ironworks of the Ramapos (Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1966), p. 153-162.

130 "West Point Gets Christmas Gift-Land from Famed Restaurateur," Pointer View, U.S.M.A., December 4, 1959, p. 1.

131 "Lady Cliff Begins 56th Year," News of the Highlands (New York), August 1956.

132 Ibid.

133 "General Letters Received," #3418, October 8, 1902.

134 "Reports of the Annual Board of Visitors," 1908 Reports, p. 4 and 5.

135 "Superintendent's Annual Reports," 1911 Report, p. 71-74.

136 Ibid.

137 "Post Planning Board Files," Box 8 and 9, File 601.1.

138 "Lady Cliff Begins 56th Year," News of the Highlands (New York), August 1956.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL ESSAY

The purpose of this study is to provide an historical overview of the physical development of the United States Military Academy. This overview serves to aid in establishing a context of historical and architectural values from which all buildings were categorized. Research for this report was performed at the following locations: USMA Archives and Special Collections Branches of the USMA Library; the Modern Military Branch and the Natural Resources Branches of the National Archives in Washington; the Orange County Recorder of Deeds office in Goshen, N.Y.; and the Public Library, Highland Falls, N.Y.

Before any primary sources were consulted, various books written on the general history and development of West Point were reviewed. Among the more useful books were: West Point, by Sidney Forman, New York, 1950; West Point, by Thomas J. Fleming, N.Y., 1969; and Men of West Point, by Richard C. Dupuy, N.Y., 1951. The first two titles trace the general growth of the teaching mission at the Academy, and the third title considers the significant roles played by numerous West Point graduates. There are no known books or comprehensive reports which discuss, in detail, the buildings at West Point.

The next step was a selective review of the holdings of the USMA Archives. As the information sought was broad in scope, the research proceeded in an open-ended manner, rather than one of specific searches. Record series were selected for review from the Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the United States Military Academy, compiled by Stanley P. Tozeski (Washington, D.C.: General Services Administration, 1976). Each record series entry contains a synopsis providing information on content, period, and degree of indexing. Contents

relevant to this study included: buildings and grounds; expansion programs and land acquisition. Periods of interest were the building boom decades of the 1840s, 1850s, 1890s, 1900s, 1930s, 1940s, and 1960s. The degree of indexing was an important variable in determining the time spent on document searches relative to the anticipated yield of useful information. This flexible equation dictated that some potentially useful record series required more time than was practical, and were therefore not considered for the purposes of this report.

USMA Archives

An annotated listing of consulted record series follows:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Record Series #1, 2 | <u>Superintendent's Letter Books</u> , 1838-1902. A very valuable series of letters written by the various superintendents during this period. A subject index directs the researcher to relevant letters. |
| Record Series #3 | <u>Superintendent's Press Letter Books</u> , 1902-1910.
Similar to Record Series #2. No index. |
| Record Series #6 | <u>Superintendent's Annual Reports</u> , 1871-1976 (with gaps). General discussion of the affairs of the entire academy, emphasis on academics. No indexing, yet usually follows a consistent pattern of organization from which researcher can find relevant sections (i.e., "buildings and grounds"). |

Record Series #129 and 130 Adjutant General, Letters Sent, 1845-1902.

Very good information on all administrative concerns, including buildings and grounds. Subject index does not begin until 1879.

Record Series #153-156 General Letters Received, 1881-1903.

Subject index directs researchers to letter register which then leads to letters. Very useful information. Letters are often in response to Superintendent's letters sent. Unfortunately, about 80% of those original letters pertaining to buildings were either misfiled or removed. Registers provide a synopsis of each letter, plus cross reference to other letters in correspondence. Researchers should take notes from register in case letters are missing.

Record Series #166, 167, 179 Post Orders (1838-1904) and Post Regulations (1888-1964).

Not very useful in a study such as this. Orders and Regulations always seem to be directed to those present at the time of issuance, leaving out information crucial to understanding the context of the order.

Record Series #280

Post Facilities Report, 1889.

Extremely valuable survey of most of the buildings at West Point as of 1889. Often provides building dates, dimensions, occupants, and alterations.

Record Series #286-289

Expansion Planning and Control Office, 1964-1971.

Register of photographs showing construction and demolition during this period. Photographs usually record the progress of each construction project.

Record Series #310

History of Army Medical Service, 1788-1950.

Good outline of the development of the hospital services, both cadet and soldiers. Gives descriptions and locations of early hospitals.

Record Series #315

Reports of the Annual Board of Visitors,

1819-1975 (with gaps).

A very good report on the needs and improvements at the Academy during each year. No index.

Record Series #324, 325

Advisory Board, 1903-1905.

Reports of a special board appointed to assist the Superintendent in ruling on various details of the 1903 building program. Although incomplete, the subject index is very useful.

Record Series #346-348

Stockbridge Photographic Collection, 1902-1932.

Over 1,000 prints and nearly 2,000 negatives. Most negatives are glass plate, with excellent images of early West Point scenes. Very good indexing.

Record Series #411-412

White Studio Photographs, 1925-1966.

Nearly 38,000 film negatives of West Point scenes. Includes several copy negatives of 19th-century West Point scenes. Good architectural views. Subject index.

Record Series (unnumbered)

Post Planning Board, 1930's-1970's.

Excellent detailed information on Post planning items, such as building programs and land acquisition. Some files go back as far as the 1910s. A War Department decimal indexing is less helpful than a standard subject indexing, yet the detail of information makes extra work worthwhile. Maps and plans of many of the projects are boxed separately.

Miscellaneous Archives Series:

Archives Photo Collection

Copy negatives of many Stockbridge and White Studio photographs, plus negatives of pictures taken from

class albums and newspapers. Valuable as a less fragile negative for reproduction than glass plates. Arranged alphabetically by subject, no index. Covers periods 1860s-1960s.

Historic Inquiry Files

Subject files of questions and replies and other data relevant to historical inquiries made of USMA Archives since the 1950s. Useful for quick reference to research already performed by archives staff.

Adjutant General Records

Although not yet completely part of the Archives holding, these records were used in connection with the section on the Warner Sisters of Constitution Island. Specifically, "File #206-09, Installation Historical file for 1963, Constitution Island," provided useful information on the Island and Warner Sisters.

National Archives

The National Archives in Washington, D.C. was consulted for a few types of records, including: Still Pictures, W.P.A. records, and, W.W. II Prisoner of Warrecords. A review of the Still Pictures and Navy and Old Army Branches led to

the conclusion that more productive photographic research should be conducted at the USMA Archives due to the specialization of their collection. The search for detailed information on W.P.A. work at West Point failed to yield enough relevant information to justify large expenditures of research time. An investigation was also made at the National Archives Modern Military Branch, for documents pertaining to the World War II Prisoner of War Camp at West Point. Although only two documents were located (which dealt with inspections of the camp) they provided valuable information on the specific situation at West Point.

The Fortification File at the Cartographic Division of the National Archives was reviewed for early plans, elevations, and maps. These assisted in establishing the influence of outside architects on the Academy's early buildings.

Special Collections Branch

The Special Collections Branch of the USMA Library was utilized throughout the duration of the project. A number of their holdings were very useful to this study and are mentioned below. A book valuable to an understanding of the Revolutionary War fortifications at West Point is, The River and the Rock, by Dave R. Palmer, (N.Y.: Greenwood Publishing Corp., 1969). The map collection proved quite valuable in developing an understanding of Academy growth and helped determine historic building locations. The map collection includes: numerous maps of the Revolutionary War period and early 19th-century maps; a particularly helpful 1883 U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey map; a large-scale 1904 topographic map; and, The Atlas of West Point, a series of illustrative, yet at times inaccurate, maps showing the expansion of the Academy from 1808 to 1937.

Historic photographs were reviewed from vertical files, class albums, photographic albums, and the Pittman Collection (ca. 1870). Other features of the Special Collections Branch's holdings are the manuscripts and reminiscences, which go back as far as the Revolutionary War period. A few of the useful reminiscences were those of Augusta Berard and L. L. Bailey, which paint a picture of West Point during the early 19th century. A number of other useful articles and reports include the following:

Sylvester Baxter, "The New West Point," Century Magazine, July 1904.

S. Allen Chambers, Jr., and Benjamin Levy, Summary Report on the Academy Development Plan for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Washington, D.C.: National Park Service 1970.

Colonel David Gray, The Architectural Development of West Point, West Point, N.Y.: U.S.M.A. 1951.

Professor Charles L. Larned, Report of Buildings, 1882-1902, West Point, N.Y.: U.S.M.A.

Montgomery Schuyler, "The Architecture of West Point," The Architectural Record, December, 1903.

N.Y. District Engineers, Architectural Competition for Permanent Building Construction. West Point, New York: U.S.M.A. 1945.

Other Sources

Another type of record consulted dealt with the history of land use and ownership of the outlying areas. At an early stage in the research it was determined that since Academy records almost never pertained to the "pre-acquisition" role of these properties, non-Academy sources had to be reviewed. This task proved difficult, largely because of the obscure location of these properties, and their lack of pre-acquisition association with the Academy. Review of tax records proved fruitless with regard to properties removed from the tax roles decades ago. Deed research also proved unsatisfactory due to their concentration on real property rather than buildings. Some success came with county atlases; Beer's County Atlas of Orange, N.Y., 1875; and Atlas of Orange County, New York, A.H. Mueller and Co., 1903. When these atlases listed the name of the occupant next to the building in question, these names were then sought in the 1880 and 1900 U.S. Population Census. Certain biographical information on the early occupants of the outlying areas was gathered from the censuses.

Additional general information on the outlying areas was gleaned from the following:

The News of the Highlands newspaper, Highland Falls, N.Y.; Cornwall, by Lewis Beech, a history and description of the greater West Point area written in 1873; and, Hudson Highlands Hill People, a brief study of the people who lived in the greater West Point area during the 18th and 19th centuries, written by Dr. Sidney Forman in 1982.